Hints on Grape Culture.—No. 5.

IN the plan we have adopted, we come next to the consideration of the distance at which the vines should be planted, and the distance of the rows from each other. Some plant a foot apart; others a dozen feet or more. In determining these points we must take a number of things into consideration. It may be assumed that compact, short-jointed kinds should be planted closer than coarse, long-jointed kinds; hence we have found it in practice a bad plan to plant vines of dissimilar growth promiscuously in the same row. Where there is a necessity for planting several kinds in the same row, those of similar growth should, as far as possible, be planted side by side. By discriminating in this way, not only will much labor be saved, but the trellis will present a much more sightly appearance. The system of training adopted will, in some cases, determine at once the distance at which the vines should be placed in the rows; for instance, if Mr. Bright's system be adopted, the distance will be one foot only, that being one of its distinctive features; if the Thomery, the vines will be two feet apart. In the vineyard, different persons recommend, where arms or standards are used, that the vines be planted from six to twelve feet apart. We have tried various distances with horizontal arms, and have realized the best results thus far with the vines four feet apart. With such rampant growers as the Concord, however, we are inclined to think that six feet will be found none too much. When vines are grown to stakes, they are usually planted from two to four feet apart. The nature of the soil, too, must be taken into consideration in determining the distance at which to plant. It seems clear to us that a poor soil can not sustain as much growth as a rich one; yet some leading authorities say, "the *richer* the soil the greater the distance." Our experience, however, compels us to say, with the greatest respect for these authorities, "the *poorer* the soil the greater the distance." In a soil prepared as we have directed, and where the "arm" system is adopted, we should say not more than four feet for such vines as the Delaware, Isabella, Rebecca, &c., and not more than six for such as the Concord, Herbemont, Union Village, &c.; and even a closer classification might be made with advantage. In the bow and renewal system, the vines may be planted two or three feet apart, according to the kind of soil and vine; how much closer, our experience does not yet enable us to say. In the "arm" system, however, our general rule is four feet. On trellises, of course, the vines must be planted in rows; these rows may be straight, or they may have a slight curve. Where stakes are used for the bow or renewal system, the vines may be planted in rows, squares, or the quincunx.

The Thomery is so little understood that we append an illustration. Fig. 1 indicates the manner of planting a layer on this system, C being the earth thrown

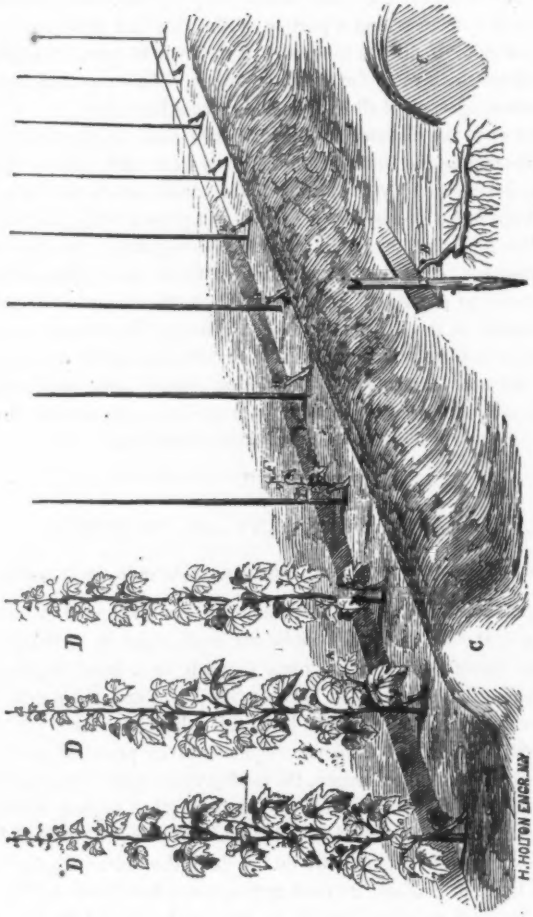


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

out of the trench, and laid up for the season. Fig. 2 shows a row of vines planted in this way. D, D, D, are vines that have made one season's growth; F is a vine just beginning to grow, two of the shoots having been rubbed off; B, B, B, are vines pruned back to three eyes, but not yet started; C is the earth from the trench. Now this trench is not made immediately by the side of the trellis, but some five or six feet from it, and a portion of the vine laid down each year until the trellis is reached. If all the vine were laid down at once, it might not be uniformly furnished with roots for its whole length. This repeated layering, and its supposed advantages, we shall explain and discuss hereafter.

Having fixed upon the distance at which the vine shall be planted in the rows, it remains to determine the distance of the rows from each other. This point, again, must be determined by the height of the trellis, which we think should in no case exceed six feet. It may be laid down as a general rule, that the width of the rows and the height of the trellis should be so regulated that the sun, in the month of September, shall freely strike the earth at the bottom of the vines. This will be found to secure the genial warmth of the sun and a free circulation of air, indispensable to the early and proper ripening of both wood and fruit. It matters but little how hot the air may be, provided the air be in motion. Sudden changes and cold currents the vineyardist should look upon with dread. With the rule above laid down, we think each one can determine for himself the distance at which the rows of his vineyard should be placed.

LANDSCAPE ADORNMENT.—No. 13. ROADS.

BY GEORGE E. WOODWARD, CIVIL AND LANDSCAPE ENGINEER, 29 BROADWAY, N. Y.

An ornamental road in any style of landscape embellishment is essentially a work of art, and should, under all conditions, express art in its design and construction. The dignity of a private place depends, in a great degree, upon the marked differences that should exist between its drives and the public highway; and although we should like to see the latter of a high standard, yet there is a degree of finish, keeping, and taste not requisite to its practical perfection. In the appointments of a well-kept estate, the roadways are quite important features; and considerations of tasteful as well as practical value suggest artistic design and location, and skillful construction and finish. In using the curved line in locating a road over natural grounds, we do not deny the character of art exhibited in the straight line, but consider its most appropriate place to be on those grounds treated in an artificial manner; nor do we propose to discard its use entirely in any school of landscape embellishment. It is of value in blending natural scenery with the architectural lines of the house, in uniting abrupt curves, and in such situations as the curved line would appear meaningless. The general use of the curved line in natural landscape treatment is the most appropriate, and by far the

most beautiful and graceful of all lines. It possesses, in a greater degree, the three qualifications of utility, economy, and ornament, and has no arbitrary conditions in its location. Two points decide at once the entire position of a straight line, while a curved line may pass through an infinitude of points, and be adapted to all positions necessary to display attractions or avoid objections.

Infinite beauty in a curved line suggests the use of natural curves; the theory of motion points them out, and every natural example of the beautiful combines them. The most graceful and elegant forms of the material world are described or bounded by curved lines; there is no higher form of beauty than that expressed by them, and the effect is lessened by using lines of a different character. This is fully illustrated in nature; and from nature is elaborated the two forms of natural landscape adornment, the beautiful and the picturesque.

From this argument we propose to draw two conclusions, the first of which is, that natural curves, or, in plainer English, mathematical curves, are those only embraced in the field of absolute beauty; and the second is, the extraordinary facility with which they can be laid out, a certain, positive, truthful beauty at the minimum of expense. Every ordinary practitioner has some sort of a plan of his own, but so wonderfully gifted (?) is he with the art of landscape gardening, "that you might as well ask for a receipt to become a poet" as to expect him to impart the manner by which he finds a result. If he will work under inspection, his deficiencies can be easily recognized; his natural gift is ignorance, and its natural effect is costly.

The system, or rather no system at all, of laying out curves by the eye only, is the resort of the experimental tyro, and to those who care only for practical results, and nothing for cost, they will answer every purpose; but to produce a line of grace and beauty that is perfect in these requisites, that can be expeditiously done, requiring the least amount of time, and the most economy of means, something besides guess work, experiments, and opinions, must be adopted.

The ordinary gardener, in laying out a road, is not satisfied until he has apparently reached a mathematical curve. From every point of observation, forward and backward, he ranges his stakes in search of a true curve, and, finally, with repeated changes, he hesitatingly accepts a line that he thinks will do, and to which he returns again and again with a fresh eye to reconsider, as if a lingering doubt existed of some inaccuracies. An accomplished expert may use this plan successfully on level ground, but on uneven or undulating surfaces the eye can not be trusted. Thus a perfectly straight line drawn diagonally across a valley, appears to be curved, and a true circular curve laid over a broken surface, apparently partakes of its nature. Optical delusions are every-day matters, and the eye differs in flat, rolling, hilly, and mountainous scenery. Shadows, foreshortened surfaces, and the well-known different effect between looking up or looking down a slope or hillside, invariably deceive all. In thickets, or where the view is obstructed by old buildings, fences, &c., the manner of guessing out curves by the eye is of no value;

it is but a home-made plan. "To have a character of art," says Mr. Loudon, "each separate curve ought to proceed, from its commencement to its termination, in a uniform, uninterrupted degree of curvature."

All authors on landscape gardening are unanimous in their recommendations of curves of a strictly mathematical character. Downing especially makes some forcible suggestions in regard to them. Hogarth's line of grace and beauty was strictly geometrical; while Ruskin traces in the trees, clouds, undulations of surface, and in all natural objects an endless variety and combination of geometrical curves.

Ornamental road-building is an example of tasteful landscape engineering; the highest form of art, grace, and utility are dependent upon its skillful application; a finished polish and neatness characterizes its development, and it affords in all its combinations of beauty, utility, and economy, an absolute knowledge of the result. Scientific road-building is the true principle of economy; it shows the minimum amount of earth-work, the easiest and simplest manner of construction, and illustrates, in advance, the position, the grade, and the expense.

[One of our correspondents has expressed a purpose to criticise Mr. Woodward's remarks on geometrical curves. There can be no objection to this; let him therefore go ahead. He can have no difficulty in understanding Mr. Woodward's preferences, for they are decided, and pointedly expressed.—Ed.]

BEN DAVIS APPLE.

BY J. S. DOWNER, ELKTON, KY.

As the apple Ben Davis continues to attract the attention of some of our Western fruit growers, and as I furnished Mr. Downing with the outline and description of this fruit, afterward published in his revised work on Fruits, I feel called upon to give what information I have relative to its origin.

About 56 years since a gentleman, whose name was Ben Davis, made a settlement in this place, (then Logan Co., Ky.) Where he came from I have not yet been able to learn certainly, as he did not remain a great while here, but it is generally supposed that he came from Virginia to this place. His fruits did not attract any notice, that I can learn of, while he remained here; neither is it known by what name, if any, his apple, now, and for the space of 40 years past, known here as the Ben Davis, was by him designated. Nor does any one now know whether he raised it from seed or brought a sucker from some old seedling tree with him when he came to this country. It is evident, however, that the original tree here was not a graft, as it was propagated many years, perhaps 25, exclusively from the suckers, and in no instance that I have heard of, has failed to produce the original variety. This apple has not been known here by any other name than Ben Davis.

The name New York Pippin is objectionable, if for no other reason, on account of its being applied to too many distinct varieties of apples here now. I have no less than some four or five sorts under this name.

[We are obliged to Mr. Downer for this history of the Ben Davis Apple. Mr. D. does not seem to doubt that the Ben Davis and New York Pippin are identical, but considers the latter name objectionable on account of its being applied to other apples, and this of itself is an objection. This matter, we believe, was referred to the Committee on Synonyms of the American Pomological Society. Any further information relating to the subject would be acceptable.—Ed.]

THE CHINESE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

BY AN AMATEUR.

Mr. Editor,—One of the greatest secrets in gardening is, to do the right thing at the right time. And it is because they now require attention, that I send you at this season some remarks upon the cultivation of a class of plants which have of late years taken an enormous stride in the estimation of our floricultural friends of the old world. And most deservedly so; for they may be (and are *there*) made to decorate the plant-houses for more than two months in the winter season, when flowers are by many the most valued.

Those who have only seen Chrysanthemums as they are grown out of doors, can form no more idea of their beauty, with proper culture, as pot plants, under glass, than one could obtain of a Newtown Pippin from a crab-apple. The bloom of the large varieties may be grown four or five inches in diameter, and many of them are of most exquisite form. As to color, they may be had of almost any shade that is desired, except perfect blue or black.

The large varieties, when well grown, are undoubtedly the most beautiful. But the pompone or dwarf sorts, which are of comparatively recent introduction, are with many persons the greatest favorites, from the circumstance of their more compact growth, and their not taking up so much room.

There are many ways in which this family of plants may be grown with a satisfactory result, some involving more care and expense than others, the best of which I will describe.

The first thing is propagation; and March and April are the best months to begin, if very large specimens are desired; but May and June are early enough to obtain good handsome plants before the blooming time in November.

Take, then, suckers from last year's plants, which in March and April will make their appearance above the surface of the soil, and put each in a three or four-inch pot; or they may be planted out in a garden frame, or under a glass hand light, a few inches apart. They will probably have some roots when taken from the old

plant; but whether or not, they will soon strike root, without the aid of artificial heat. In three or four weeks, when the point of each is seen to grow, cut or pinch off the top, at three or four inches above the surface of the soil. In a few days, a shoot will be observed to come out from the axil of most, if not all the leaves, below where the plants were cut or "stopped," as it is termed by gardeners. As soon as these shoots are distinctly seen, (but not before,) place the plants at once in the pots in which they are to bloom. The size of these pots may depend on the use to which they are to be applied when in bloom, such as decorating rooms, &c.; but to grow them in the greatest perfection, the large or tall growing varieties require a pot eleven inches in diameter, and the pompone, one seven or eight.

The compost in which to grow them is the next point. Two thirds good loam and one third well decayed manure, mixed together, and used in the rough state, without being sifted, will suit them admirably. More manure would encourage leaf development too much.

Place one plant in the center of each pot; and when potted, keep them in a garden frame until night frosts are over. Immediately after that, place them out of doors, in an open situation; but plunge the pots, or cover them with sawdust, hay, or some material to keep the sun from the sides of the pots. Place the pots three feet apart every way; the plants must have ample room to grow, and as they are to remain in the same situation until just in bloom, it saves trouble to give them room enough at first. Cinders or boards, to keep out worms, should be under the pots; and the pots should be lifted up once a week or ten days, to prevent the plants from rooting down into the ground, unless boards are underneath.

Water must be liberally supplied, morning and evening, to the plants in dry weather, both to the pots, and through a rose or syringe overhead. They should never be allowed to flag for want of water; but if they should happen to be neglected, a good watering will restore them to health and vigor; although, if that happens often, they certainly suffer materially.

As soon as the shoots that were seen to be growing when potted are three or four inches long, they should again be stopped, or have the point pinched off from each shoot. This stopping should take place not later than the end of July; and after this they will not require any more stopping or cutting, but the shoots that will thenceforth be made will all remain to bloom.

As these shoots grow, they should be tied out and spread, so as to admit air freely to all parts of the plant. This process requires attention from time to time.

About the middle of August, and from that time forward while the bloom buds are forming and growing, manure water may be given to the plants every third day with advantage. This may be made by stirring up a couple of spadefuls of old manure in five or six gallons of water, and letting it stand until clear.

Towards the middle of October, the buds will appear in large clusters. To have fine bloom, these should be thinned, leaving only one bud on each shoot. Their

size is by this means much increased; and from the number of shoots the display of bloom will be magnificent.

As soon as there are symptoms of approaching frost at night, the plants should be removed to a greenhouse, or to an empty room without fire, so that the bloom may expand gradually; keeping the plants, if in a room, as near as possible to the window, that they may have all the light possible. Watering must be attended to, but not over the foliage after the buds begin to expand.

Supposing the plants to have been raised from cuttings late in May or in June, the course of cultivation will be the same, except that they must not be stopped more than once, (about the middle or end of July,) and of course they will not be such large plants, and will not require such large pots.

The above is perhaps the best method of growth for general purposes; but assuming the amateur to be an enthusiastic florist, anxious to show the extent of his skill, very much larger blooms may be obtained of the tall growing varieties, to exhibit as cut flowers, by a system that I will now explain. But the plants themselves will not exhibit that luxuriance of habit, clothed with foliage when in bloom down to the pot, as they will by the way above detailed; that is, provided they have been well attended to, as to the supply of water; for if at any time that has been allowed to fail, the lower part of the foliage is sure to fall, or rather wither.

To grow the largest size blooms, take suckers in April, and plant four in a four or five-inch pot, place them in a frame or under a hand glass, and shade the first week if the sun is strong. As soon as the pot is full of roots, in a month or so, transplant without breaking the ball, and *without* stopping the plants, into an eleven-inch pot. Treat the plants exactly as before directed, except that they are to be allowed to run up as tall as they please; but pinch off all laterals or side shoots, leaving nothing but the main stem and the leaves upon it.

When the time arrives for the formation of flower buds, pinch off the first bud that appears, and then the top of the stem will divide into three heads, with several buds on each. Take off all the buds but one on each division, leaving, therefore, three buds on each plant; and as there were four plants originally to each pot, that will give twelve blooms. Provided due attention be given to watering, and that manure water is given, as above directed, after July, but not earlier, these twelve blooms will look more like Dahlias than like ordinary Chrysanthemums.

On this system, suckers will sometimes come up in the pot before the bloom is expanded; if so, take them out by cutting them at or just below the surface of the soil, so as to keep all the energies of the plants concentrated in the growing buds.

There is another mode by which good bloom in pots may be obtained, with much less trouble. But with true florists, "trouble" is a word not known to their dictionary!

If the plants, when propagated in spring, are planted out in a piece of good garden ground, three feet apart, and then stopped once, at the end of June or in July, and are duly supplied with water, they may be removed into pots in September,

being carefully taken up, with good balls of earth. They should immediately be placed in the shade, out of doors, and kept there a week or ten days, well watered daily. After that, place them where they can get the morning or the afternoon sun for two or three hours; and when frost threatens, take them in-doors to bloom. In this way, even, they will afford much satisfaction.

After bloom is over, cut down the stems, and keep the pots through winter, (without water,) in a dry cellar or barn, cool, but free from frost, nearly if not quite. Many sorts will live in the open ground all winter; but some will not usually. In March, look to them, and give water, or shake out the ball of earth and commence the year's propagation.

[We will just add, that it is worth all the trouble to raise the Chrysanthemum in the manner so clearly described by Amateur.—Ed.]

AMERICAN SHADE TREES.—No. III.

BY C. N. BEMENT.

It is gratifying to see the increasing interest taken in the cultivation of trees, for it indicates the advancement of civilization and refinement. But there is yet a large class so wanting in good taste that they consider the planting and cultivation of trees a very useless employment. To this class we would say, that happiness is the aim and object of all the labor of man. In proportion as mankind advance they seek for more extended and more intellectual sources of happiness. One of these is the planting and cultivation of trees. It not only gives pleasure to the senses, but teaches us a moral to the heart. Would our happiness have been as great without these beautiful objects of nature?

Much more might be said on the subject and character of tree-culture, but we have already occupied more space on this subject than perhaps we are entitled to. We do not expect that any thing we may say on this subject, at the present time, will awaken those who have grown gray in their indifference to the productions of our woodlands; but we do hope to stir up the young, whose habits of thought and action are not yet formed, and who have not become wholly possessed with the one idea—that of money making—which blights and destroys all the finer and better feelings and tastes. They have more leisure than their fathers had; education is more general; science and taste are both uniting with labor in all parts of the world, so that working men will not be mere machines, performing their day's labor as an ox or a horse. "The cultivation of the soil" is no longer the farmer's motto, but the "cultivation of the soil and the mind"—the *mind* above all.

It is not our purpose, in this article, to offer a select list, but to make some further remarks on a few of our native trees and shrubs worthy of cultivation, which we have omitted in our former articles.

The Flowering Dogwood is the most showy and beautiful of its genus. The flowers are very numerous, and when they are expanded in May, this tree, which is a very common undergrowth in woods composed of deciduous trees, is conspicuous at a great distance, showing through the woods like a flower among the green, delicate foliage, sometimes in such profusion, as at a distance to resemble a snow-bank.

Among the eight species of Dogwood which have been observed in this country, the White Flowering is the most beautiful, and is entitled by its size to be classed with the forest trees. It is a roundish-headed tree, usually twelve or fifteen feet high, but often rising from twenty-five to thirty feet, with a diameter of nine or ten inches. In the United States at large it is known by the name of Dogwood, and in Connecticut it is called box-wood, probably from its close, fine grain, resembling the wood of that name, much used by engravers, musical instrument makers, &c.

The Flowering Dogwood is of slow growth, and the wood is hard, heavy, and solid, of a fine, close texture, and susceptible of a fine polish. The seeds, of a vivid, glossy red, and of an oval shape, are always united. They remain upon the tree till the first frosts, when, notwithstanding their bitterness, they are devoured by the robin, which at this period arrives from the northern regions, on its migration to warmer climes.

The Flowering Dogwood should find a place on every lawn or pleasure ground of any considerable extent.

The Liquidamber, or Sweet Gum, is a beautiful tree, not unlike some of our Maples in the leaf, star-like, which retains its clear, dark, glossy foliage through the burning heat of midsummer; but it is in the autumn that the most glorious effects are visible; then it is dressed in a livery of brilliant tints, ranging from vivid orange to deep purple-red. It requires a rather moist soil, is easily transplanted, and requires little or no care afterward; its habit is open and straggling; the bark on the body and limbs has a corky appearance, not unlike that of the cork-oak. We have noticed it growing on the high grounds, north side of Staten Island, near New Brighton. It is one of our beautiful native trees, and is not half as well appreciated, as an ornamental tree, as it should be. It would add to the beauty of our pleasure grounds.

The Buffalo Tree, or Silver-leaved Shepherdia, is a very beautiful tree. It is a native of the Rocky Mountains, and named after the late W. Shepherd. It was also discovered by Mr. Nuttall in Missouri. The tree is deciduous, of hardy, upright growth, and thorny; leaves small, and of a delicate and silvery appearance. The fertile and barren flowers are produced on different trees. They should be set in pairs—one staminate, the other pistillate—from six to eight feet apart, which will allow them to grow to twelve or fifteen feet in height. The two kinds can be distinguished by the leaf or bud; the pistillate having a long, slender leaf, while the staminate has a shorter leaf, approaching near the

oval form. The form of the buds corresponds with that of the leaves. This is ornamental as a plant, and the fruit consists of berries about the size of large currants, of a fine scarlet color, and very beautiful, enveloping the branches in profuse clusters. It has an acid taste, and is considered valuable for making into tarts and preserves.

The Judas Tree.—This is a beautiful genus of ornamental trees, flowering early in spring, and looking very pretty planted singly on a lawn, or trained to a wall or trellis; it is not a large tree, seldom reaching higher than twenty-five or thirty feet.

The species found in the United States is the *Cercis Canadensis* of botanists, commonly called Red Bud. It is found sparsely scattered in sheltered valleys in all parts of the country, from Maine to Georgia, though it abounds most on the banks of the Ohio. In the Middle States, it is a small tree, sixteen or twenty feet high, greatly admired from being covered with bunches of small flowers, of a rose color, in April, before the leaves begin to appear. They give a brilliant appearance to the whole tree, except the extremities of their branches. The leaves are exceedingly neat and pleasant to the eye, being of medium size, heart-shaped, dark green above and silvery underneath, and looking as if they had just been washed by a shower. The flowers are small, shaped like the pea blossom, and are of a deep purple-rose color. They grow in clusters, completely covering the branches, and are conspicuous from quite a distance; hence the name of Red Bud.

The rosy blossoms of this tree, combined with the white Dogwood and the scarlet of the Maple, form an agreeable sight in spring. The flowers are succeeded in summer by brown seed-pods, six or eight inches long, which hang on the trees throughout the winter.

This tree grows rapidly enough any where, but succeeds best in a cool, moist, and half shady situation. Insects do not infest it, nor does our coldest winter harm it. We recommend it as one of the finest ornamental trees, of medium size, and should find a place in every pleasure ground or lawn.

The Swamp Pyrus, or June Berry, is a small tree, found in low grounds, and blooming in early May. When in flower, it possesses considerable beauty, and produces in June a small pear-shaped fruit, of a sweet and pleasant taste, and is improved by cultivation. The June Berry belongs to the apple family of trees and shrubs, to which it is so nearly allied that scions of the pear inserted into the stock of this shrub will grow and bear fruit. The June Berry, with its sweet flavor, is a favorite with birds, and they generally appropriate all of it to their own use some time before it is fully ripe. It is easily cultivated on any common soil, and would add much to adorn the park or lawn.

The Hop Tree is more of a shrub than a tree, as in its wild state it seldom grows above the height of ten feet. It is a native of the Middle States, and flourishes well on almost all kinds of soil, even in a partial shade. It is a pretty

ornamental tree. The seed grows in clusters or panicles, and present a beautiful appearance. The flowers not only resemble those of the hop, but have the same bitter flavor. We have them in great perfection on the grounds at Springside.

The Moose Wood is a beautiful, small tree, and found in abundance on the high and rocky land adjoining the Magnolia Swamps, in Gloucester, Massachusetts. "It is distinguished," says Mr. Emerson, "for its striped bark, beauty of its opening buds in spring, its large, handsome leaves and pendant fruit, and is of the easiest cultivation in any good soil."

Franklinii. This species of Gordonia appears to be restricted by nature within very narrow bounds, "Having hitherto," says Michaux, "been found only on the banks of the Altamaha, in the State of Georgia." It was first discovered there by John Bartram in 1770, who gave it its specific name. In height it rarely exceeds thirty feet, with a diameter of six or seven inches. It blooms in Carolina about the beginning of July, and a month later near Philadelphia. The flowers are more than an inch in diameter, white, and of an agreeable odor. They have a slight resemblance to those of the Dogwood. Like those of the Loblolly Bay, they open in succession during two or three months, and begin to appear when the tree is only three or four feet high. The fruit is in the form of round, ligneous capsules, which, when ripe, open at the summit in four seams to release the small angular seeds.

Although the Franklinii is found two or three degrees further south than the Loblolly Bay, it appears to be far less sensible to cold, and stands the climate well near Philadelphia, and will perhaps resist the winters higher north.

GOSSIP ABOUT FRUIT TREES AND FRUIT.

BY AN OLD COUNTRYMAN.

THERE is no doubt that the age of some fruit trees has much influence on the flavor of the fruit. This fact is quite in accordance with what might be assumed would be the case, judging from the laws of vegetable physiology; inasmuch as many of the secretions of plants are known to vary considerably, both in flavor and consistence, with the age of the plant.

In floriculture, even, the shape and colors of flowers are often found to alter to a certain extent, after the plants have attained some age, from those which they possessed as seedlings. Care, therefore, should be taken not to reject too hastily newly introduced varieties of fruits, whether imported kinds, or such as may be originated by those who are engaged in the interesting and praiseworthy occupation of endeavoring to add to the Pomological riches of their country.

Many years since, the writer had in his garden in England, a very old Green Gage plum tree, some fifteen or twenty feet in height, and, probably, eight or ten inches in diameter near the ground. It had but a moderate sized, straggling top

of branches, but it bore fruit of remarkably fine quality. The plums were, however, very small, and but for their high flavor, would have been little valued.

This tree chanced to throw out a vigorous young shoot from the old stem, (which was perfectly sound and in good health,) and the idea presented itself, that it might be possible to add to the size of the fruit, by removing the top of the tree, and renewing it from this young branch. The stem of the tree was, therefore, cut through just above it in a slanting direction, and the whole strength of the roots being thereby thrown into the young branch, (then in the second year of its growth,) it made rapid progress; and in two years from that time, it commenced bearing, and well repaid the experiment; the size of the fruit was more than doubled, and the flavor retained all the excellence for which the tree had long been remarkable.

Some varieties of pears (upon their own roots) undoubtedly present the same phenomena. A tree of an old and highly esteemed pear in England, that was comparatively young, always bore fruit of very large size and shape, but of a mealy flavor; while an old tree of the same kind, similarly circumstanced as regards soil and situation, produced invariably fruit of high quality; evidently consequent only on the difference of age in the two trees: but the size of fruit was much in favor of the younger tree.

The renovation of old fruit trees deserves, also, more attention than it often receives. So long as a sufficient portion of the trunk remains sound, there are few old trees that can not be rendered valuable. If the variety be not really good, of course, it is worse than useless to retain it, and the tree must, therefore, either be cut down, or, if sound, grafted.

The causes of deterioration of old trees that are sound, but cease to bear, or that yield imperfect fruit, will generally be found to arise either from poverty of the soil, (its good qualities having been appropriated by the tree in bygone years,) or in the fact that the roots have penetrated too deeply into the subsoil. These evils may be remedied, by digging a trench round the tree at a distance from the trunk, at least equal to the spread of the branches; from this trench, and *between* the larger roots found near the surface, an approach may be made nearer towards the trunk of the tree, so as to cut through many of the roots that may be seen to grow downwards into the subsoil; and after that, the earth removed may be replaced, with a rich compost of fresh loam, and a little manure mixed with it.

An instance of the accidental restoration of a large pear tree, that had for many years been neglected, and which was supposed by the owner to be valueless, will illustrate the simple means by which such an operation may sometimes be effected. The tree was very old, and happened to stand within about ten yards of the back entrance to a large garden, which had formerly been kept in high order, but for many years subsequently had been but poorly cultivated.

In the fall of the year, a large quantity of old manure was purchased, for the purpose of improving the ground for vegetables. This manure was heaped up

against and around the old pear tree some three or four feet high, simply because the place was convenient to the back entrance gate, and was, moreover, pretty much out of sight from the rest of the garden. The manure remained there through the winter, and in the spring was used up as required in the garden. In the following autumn, the tree (an old Bergamot pear) bore a very heavy crop of fruit, remarkable both for size and flavor. And thenceforth it continued (and possibly may yet continue) to yield a good annual crop. Of course, no one at all conversant with the subject, would recommend piling up manure against the stem of a tree. In this instance, it was done unwittingly by the men, and was again removed before it did harm; and, undoubtedly, without any intention of the tree being affected by it for good or ill.

The best method of keeping fruit in winter, is a subject on which the experience of fruit-growers, who are readers of the HORTICULTURIST, would be acceptable. Some six or seven years ago, a gentleman of the name of Curtis, at Boston, was making experiments, which were said to promise well, and which he was to communicate to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Who knows what came of them?

Is there any better system of keeping apples and pears for use in the spring, than the old-fashioned one of enveloping each in paper in November, and stowing them away in boxes kept in a cool dry place, free from frost? Fifty years ago, that was the way they were kept in the old country (at least the choice table fruit) with success; but the trouble attending it where the quantity is considerable, precluded the adoption of the plan, except to a limited extent.

What is wanted, is a good system "for the million," as the saying is, in these go-ahead days. But that system does not seem to be yet forthcoming. Fruit rooms are expensive things "for the million," and even the right principles for constructing these, where expense is no obstacle, are not by any means reduced to such a state of accuracy as to lead to quite satisfactory results in the majority of cases.

In treating, or rather digesting the subject, it should be borne in mind, that the separation of the fruit from the tree does not destroy its vitality. It must not be regarded as a dead branch. It has no longer the power of growth or enlargement; but many of the meteorological influences which affected an apple or pear while hanging on the tree, will, in a modified degree, produce changes in them of a similar or analogous character for a greater or less time after they are gathered. These changes may be, and are, we know from experience, capable of being, within certain limits, hastened or modified by circumstances, as the temperature, moisture, dryness, and some other conditions of the atmosphere, by which they are surrounded.

This we all know; and, therefore, the question is, how to regulate these conditions to the best advantage with reference to the object in view, having regard to the fact that the vital agency is still operative; (which admits of demon-

stration as to some of the vital powers;) and it would seem, therefore, that success can only be attained by having due regard to that circumstance, whatever be the plan under experiment.

[The method of Mr. Curtis was, we believe, reported to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which awarded him a medal; but the mode itself has never been laid before the public that we are aware of.—Ed.]

THE STRAWBERRY.

BY A. S. FULLER, BROOKLYN, L. I.

In all our exertions toward improving the Strawberry, we should aim to produce a plant combining as many good qualities as possible. In most, if not all, of the best now in cultivation, we find but few of the excellences that go toward making up a superior variety.

1. *Quality* should be a prominent feature; and we do not mean by quality, a berry that is simply sweet or sour, but one that contains that peculiar richness which is only to be found in a variety that possesses an abundance of acidulous and saccharine matter, along with that peculiar property which gives to this fruit that delightful aroma so much admired in the wild strawberry of this country. Some varieties that are called good, are almost entirely destitute of those rich qualities that we find in Burr's New Pine, Hooker, and some others.

2. *Productiveness.*—When we have produced a variety that is satisfactory as to quality, the next question that arises is, Is it productive? for if not, then the small amount produced would exclude it from the list for general cultivation. On the other hand, a variety may be very productive, and yet so very inferior that quantity will not compensate for the loss of quality.

3. *Size* is one of those requisites that should not be overlooked in these progressive times, for a small berry, although very good, is not only troublesome to gather, but is unattractive, and consequently of not so ready sale, when that is an object in cultivation. Nor is the apparent size of the berry always to be taken as correct, for many of the celebrated large varieties are either hollow, or have a pithy, tasteless core, and contain really no more substance than a berry of smaller size.

4. *Color.*—The best color for a strawberry is the one most attractive to the eye; and as different eyes are attracted by different colors, it becomes a very difficult task to determine which is the best. But whatever the color, it should be bright and permanent, for we have always observed that those varieties that have a dull color will look stale and decayed after being picked, long before they are so in reality.

5. The *Calyx.*—When a variety is to be grown for a market where it has been customary to pick off the calyx or hulls, as they are generally called, it becomes

indispensable that we have varieties the calyx of which parts from the berry easily. In some, the calyx adheres so firmly to the berry that they are entirely worthless for general cultivation, and would be so even if they possessed all the other requisite qualities of a first class berry.

6. *Firmness.*—A solid berry, one that will bear transportation without injury, is another important consideration, when selecting a variety for market purposes; in fact, we think a soft berry, like McAvoy's Superior, should not be tolerated on any account, as we sometimes wish to send a friend a basket of strawberries, and if they reach that friend in a damaged condition, it is not only mortifying to the donor, but a disappointment to the recipient. Besides, we have plenty of varieties that are firm and solid, and equally as good in other respects as those that are delicate.

7. *Growth of the vines* should also be noticed in making selections; for if the plant is a poor, feeble grower, it is as great a fault as a poor producer. Some varieties will grow luxuriantly upon very poor soil, while others grow poorly upon the best soil and under the best of cultivation. Over luxuriance in foliage, without a corresponding productiveness, such as we see in the Peabody, is certainly to be avoided; yet a variety that has a delicate foliage can not be expected to give a large quantity or fine quality of fruit. The Wilson may be considered a variety with both luxuriant growth and great productiveness combined in an eminent degree.

8. The *Fruit-stalks* should be long, and sufficiently strong to elevate the fruit above the ground, so that it be clean and easily gathered.

9. *Hardiness.*—This is the foundation upon which we must build our structure; for if a plant is not hardy, then all other merits fail. By hardiness we do not mean a plant that will withstand the cold alone, but one that will withstand the heat of summer, drought, changes from heat to cold, and, further, one that will adapt itself somewhat to the different soils in which it may be planted; for it is not always convenient or practicable to have a particular soil ready for each and every variety of fruit. For instance, some of the European varieties suffer much from the cold of our winters, while others suffer most from the heat of summer. Most American varieties seem to be capable of enduring the heat of summer, but some of them are quite tender in winter.

The past winter has been quite severe upon many kinds, and early in the season we made some notes upon the condition of many varieties we have in cultivation, a few of which we append, as it will show the effects of the cold upon the different varieties unprotected and cultivated in the same garden.

Wilson, Bartlett, Scarlet Magnate, Chorlton's Prolific, Downer, Oscar: foliage green and uninjured.

Boyden's Mammoth: leaves entirely killed, but crowns good. This is now fruiting finely.

Jenny Lind: leaves brown, plants slightly damaged.

Queen Victoria, (new:) all dead but one or two plants. Planted one year, and were large and fine last fall.

Hooker: about one half dead, and those remaining so much injured that they will give no fruit. The bed has been two years planted, and the plants were healthy last fall.

Reine Hortense: leaves slightly injured, but crowns good.

Delices d'Automne and Vicomptesse de Hericart de Theury, stood the winter very well; occasionally a plant killed.

Triomphe de Gand, leaves partially killed, but the plants seem to be uninjured; may be considered quite hardy.

Wizard of the North, La Constante, May Queen, Wonderful, Bont St. Julien, Duc de Malakoff, West Chester, and several other varieties, were slightly protected; we can not, therefore, decide upon their hardiness. They were all uninjured, while some other varieties in the same manner were considerably damaged.

We might extend these notes, were it necessary, but from the few we have given, a comparison can be made upon the hardiness of the varieties named.

[Mr. Fuller, we are glad to learn, proposes to follow up this subject, for which he has an abundance of material; and, moreover, he delights in it, and will no doubt do it up thoroughly. The past winter has been very trying, and the notes on the hardiness of varieties are interesting, and agree substantially with what we have observed in several localities in regard to many leading kinds.—Ed.]

BROOKLYN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

BY BROOKLYN.

I REGRET you were unable to attend the spring exhibition of the above. I was expecting you would have a word to say about it, and therefore deferred this article.

I noted at the time what struck me in connection with the affair, and beg to offer the following remarks:

First of all, "*Time.*" Punctuality upon the part of exhibitors was much insisted upon in the programme; this was justly relaxed on account of the weather, which also was probably the reason the judges did not attend at the specified time; but the room was not in a proper state to begin the reception until after the time appointed for closing it.

The secretary had too much upon his hands at the receiving and arranging. He should be assisted by one or two of the active members, who should also arrange among themselves so that one of their number, distinguished by badge, be always upon the floor throughout the exhibition.

Artificial flowers I think inadmissible and objectionable; preserved natural

ones, collections of Algæ, Herbariums, Leaf cases, &c., I should judge desirable additions.

Music I consider rather an unnecessary outside attraction; but if it *is* introduced, it should be in the afternoon as well as at night, so that the children, and those living outside, might have the benefit of it. Gaslight is not the proper time to view flowers, and no extra inducement should be offered then.

The mode of arranging cut flowers I think open to improvement. It made me shiver to see the beautiful Pansies caged, in their naked loveliness, by an iron grating; there should be two or three leaves to each, and should be set by means of light spring-steel nippers, so that their velvet be not soiled with wet sand by clumsy fingers. A head of Cabbage is a pleasing sight to me in its proper place; but I do not think the Drumhead and Sugar-loaf forms so elegant, that they are the only worthy models for Nosegays; (beg pardon, Bouquets!) at any rate, to make a good imitation, there should be more *greens.*

Druggists' glass jars are not the most sightly flower holders; opaque vases would be better. Think loose flowers, with plenty of foliage, set in a basket or dish of sand, more natural and elegant than the present strait-jacket style; and any that fade can be easily removed.

A lady of my acquaintance thus gives vent to her feelings; don't know whether poetry is within rule:

Let Flowers be grouped in clusters few,
So that not one is lost to view,
And skillfully arranged to show
Their beauty and their contrast too.
The Lily placed beside the Rose:
This is more fair, that will disclose
A richer and a deeper hue.
The crimson Salvia or the blue
Beside the virgin Rose should bend,
Or with the white Clematis blend.
The gay Nasturtium is more bright
With blue Verbenas or the white.
And let the scarlet Cypress vine
Amid fair Sweet Alyssum shine;
The coral Honeysuckle glow
Through cluster Roses pure as snow.
Let Fuchsias droop o'er purian white:
Ne'er choose a vase of color bright,
Nor one o'erlaid with tinsel gold,
For Nature does her gems unfold
In emerald setting, and can ne'er
Need aught to make them still more fair.
Yet in the art of grouping these,
How few excel or even please!
Forgetting Nature's graceful ease,

They strip her flowers of leaf and stem,
Which add so much to charm in them,
And bind them stiffly, till they bear
Scarce likeness to the gems they were;
But mingled both in form and shade,
A graceless pyramid is made,
That soon, as well it may, will fade.
Give me one Rose, some drooping grass,
And place them loosely in a glass
Of tall and slender shape; or yet
Some sweet and modest Mignonnette,
With one Moss Rose-bud in the green,
That Nature gave it birth between,
And Woodbine fair, that will perfume
As well as they shall grace the room.
Where oft those lovely clusters may
E'en to a stranger's eye convey
A type of her who placed them there,
With so much grace and tender care.

Bright glazed green muslin I think not suitable for coverings and hangings to the tables; should choose a dull maroon—*earth colored* serge.

The list of awards should be printed on slips as soon as possible after they are made, and freely distributed. No full and correct one has been published, to my knowledge.

The room is, of course, a vast improvement upon former ones, but is yet too small; the people require space as well as the plants, and should have the privilege of lounging and looking in comfort, as long as they feel inclined.

The attention of gardeners should be called to the exhibitions two months beforehand, by advertisements in their publications; and as these unfortunately reach but a small portion of them, also in the daily papers, and by circular.

Each working member should resolve himself into a visiting committee of one, and between this time and that of exhibition, personally solicit every grower he knows. Members and others, I think, should be impressed that *any* single healthy blooming plant is a desirable addition to the exhibition, and *worth sending*. Few now contribute unless they have rare ones, or can muster the number necessary to compete for a prize. When the date of exhibition arrived, as you tell me the "*Public*" is inevitable, I should endeavor to catch as many stray quarters as possible, by a thorough system of advertising—by newspapers, posters, handbills, flags on city cars, &c.

[We no doubt lost something in not being able to attend the last exhibition; but we are glad to see that you have in a measure supplied our place. Your criticisms will be of use to the Brooklyn society, and to others also, being characterized as they are by candor and intelligence. Punctuality is a matter of the first

importance on the part of all concerned in getting up an exhibition. The weather will sometimes interfere in the case of exhibitors, but seldom affects the judges. We have sometimes been kept waiting, at great inconvenience, for five or six hours. The judges, seeing that they can not go to work for hours, often leave the room, and sometimes do not return again. A man who travels fifty or a hundred miles at his own expense for your convenience, has a right to expect that his time shall not be needlessly wasted. This subject of punctuality, we know well enough, has its troubles, but every thing possible ought to be done to insure it. The Brooklyn society, in this respect, is not more blameworthy than a great many others; the fault is a very general one. The secretary is usually an overworked man at exhibitions; he might be greatly relieved in the manner you suggest. It would be a great help to him, too, if exhibitors were strictly required to present an exact list of their articles at the time of entering them. To suppose that any secretary can enter promptly each article as it comes in, is a monstrous absurdity. The reception and arrangement of articles should be intrusted to parties specially appointed for the purpose.—Artificial flowers must feel very queer in such company. Unless they are exact reproductions, and made for a special scientific purpose, it seems to us that they are somewhat out of place; though we expect to get our ears boxed for saying so. But the music, "Brooklyn." We have a soul for music as well as flowers, and it is one of the very few pleasant sounds *we* can hear. Then, too, there is a certain sympathy between music and flowers. When Æolus plays his harp, the leaves and flowers begin to dance. We think, on the whole, "Brooklyn," that it would be well to have the music both in the afternoon and the evening; but let it be *real* music, if you please.—Cabbage-head Bouquets! That is expressive. In our boyish days we were on a Flower Committee with the late Mr. Downing, and when the "Bouquets" were reached we took occasion to express our repugnance to the common method of packing and squeezing flowers into an unmeaning mass, and calling it a Bouquet. He agreed with us precisely, and there being some proper subjects before us, (which, indeed, almost suggested the discussion,) we gave the first prize (to the consternation of some of the exhibitors) to a pair of Bouquets loosely but very tastefully made up, so that the individuality of each leaf and flower was well preserved. We have seen no Bouquets since to equal them. We will send the HORTICULTURIST for a year to the person who shall present the best pair of hand Bouquets in *that* style at the next Brooklyn exhibition.—The poetry of your lady friend is not bad, and the sense is excellent.—The druggists' jars and the glaze on the muslin might both be removed with advantage. Where leaves and flowers are exhibited together, green is not the best ground; but for flowers alone it does very well, provided it is a proper green.—You are right about the awards and the room, and especially in regard to the advertisements. In our experience with exhibitions, we have found money spent in advertising well and wisely spent.—Your "committee of one" would be a very useful and effective one. It is the

individual action of members that gives force to the whole.—Though not addressed directly to them, but rather to Brooklyn, our Fairfield friends, who desire our comfort, will please apply these remarks unto their own hearts and circumstances, and profit as much as possible by them.—Ed.]

NEW PEARS, WITH DESCRIPTIONS.

BY J. C. HANCHETT, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Mr. Editor,—I send you descriptions of a few pears not generally known, which have been tested within the last two or three years at the Syracuse nurseries. I believe none of them have heretofore been noticed in your pages; but if I am wrong in this impression, it may still be not uninteresting to your readers to see how they appear to another observer, or prove themselves in another locality; for it is only by examinations at different seasons, in different localities, under different circumstances, and by persons differing in tastes and susceptibilities, that the qualities of a fruit can be determined, and its character established. I think I need not apologize, therefore, if in either of the descriptions which follow I should be introducing your readers to a former acquaintance.

1. Madam Eliza.

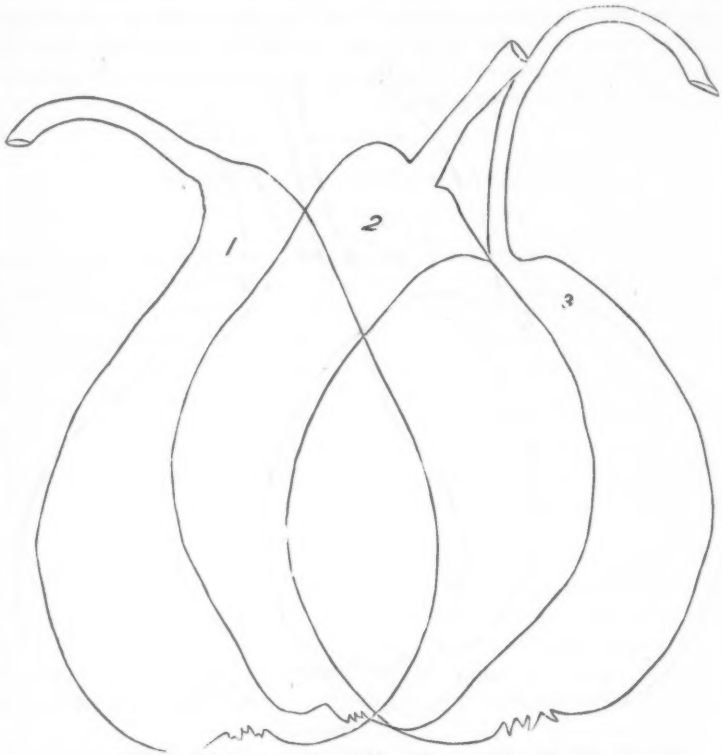
Fruit, large, long-pyriform, irregular. *Skin*, greenish yellow. *Stem*, about one inch long, curved, and lost imperceptibly in a fleshy protuberance. *Calyx*, closed, in a narrow basin. *Flesh*, white, fine grained, buttery, melting, sweet, abounding in an agreeable acidulous juice, and delicately flavored with bergamot. The fruit is quite uniform in appearance, and will prove a decided favorite. *Tree*, a fine grower on pear, short and stinted on quince, bears well. *Season*, last of October.

2. Beurre Coloma.

Fruit, large, broadest in the center, with a long taper in each direction, it being apparently of little consequence to it in which end the stem is inserted. *Skin*, yellowish green, with a bronze tinge on one side. *Stem*, scarcely one inch long, somewhat obliquely inserted, without depression. *Calyx*, small, closed, placed in a very narrow, shallow, corrugated basin. *Flesh*, white, rather fine grained, juicy, pleasantly acidulous, reasonably sweet, and without flavor; the consumption of it yielding a sense of passive enjoyment, with no nonsense about it. *Tree*, a good grower on pear or quince, but prone to blight. *Season*, last of October.

3. Hamon.

Fruit, large medium, obovate, broadest in the center, often one-sided. *Skin*, yellowish green, covered with green dots. *Stem*, two inches long, very slender, curved, inserted in a slight cavity. *Calyx*, broad, open, placed in a shallow basin. *Flesh*, yellowish white, coarse grained, melting, very juicy, with an agreeable blending of sweet and acid, and a fine bergamot flavor. A fruit which one will return to with a relish. *Season*, last of September.



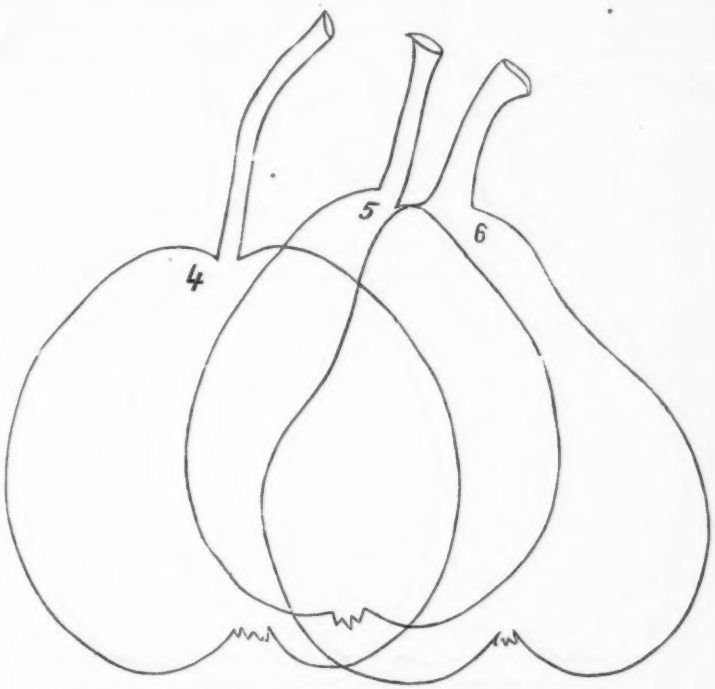
MADAM ELIZA. BEURRE COLOMA. HAMON.

4. Leon le Clerc de Laval.

Fruit, round, or bergamot shaped. *Skin*, dull greenish yellow, with a brown cheek. *Stem*, an inch and a quarter long, inserted in a slight depression. *Calyx*, small, open, in a moderately deep basin. *Flesh*, white, fine grained, firm, sweet, and juicy, without flavor. It is desirable in so far as it is a late keeper, (this description being made from a ripened specimen on the 6th of April,) fair to look upon, pleasant to the taste, and particularly good for the oven from September onward. *Tree*, a handsome free grower, on pear and quince.

5. Gen. Lamoriciere.

Fruit, medium sized, ovate, usually somewhat one-sided. *Skin*, rough, green, covered with russety dots, and more or less russet, especially about the base. *Stem*, about an inch long, inserted (often quite obliquely) without depression in a



LEON LE CLERC DE LAVAL. GEN. LAMORICIERE. COLMAR DE SILLY.

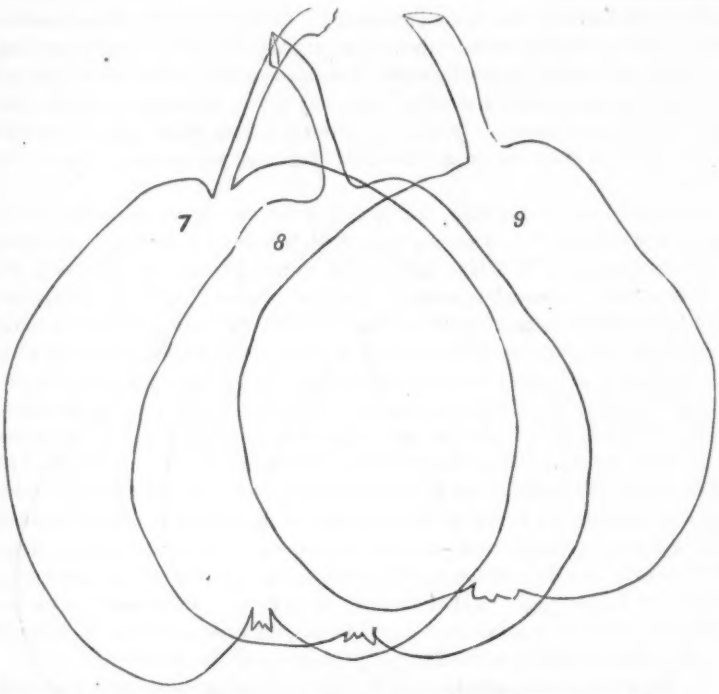
fleshy base. *Calyx*, small, open, in a very shallow basin, *Flesh*, white, rather coarse grained, very melting and juicy, sweet, acidulous, and slightly flavored with bergamot. *Tree*, vigorous, and bears early and well. *Season*, October.

6. Colmar de Silly.

Fruit, medium, pyramidal. *Skin*, yellowish green. *Stem*, short, stout, inserted in a fleshy projection. *Calyx*, small, in a broad, deep basin. *Flesh*, white, rather coarse grained, somewhat firm, exceedingly sweet, melting, juicy, and rich, with a flavor something like the old Summer Bon Chretien, and suggesting also, in taste and consistence, the Beurré Sterkmans. A delicious fruit. *Tree*, a fine grower on pear or quince. *Season*, first of November.

7. Bezi Goubalt.

Fruit, large, round, one-sided. *Skin*, yellow, with some russet about the stem and calyx. *Stem*, one inch long, slender, deeply planted in a broad cavity. *Calyx*,



BEZI GOUBAULT. SERRURIER. ZEPHIRINE GREGOIRE.

small, open, placed in a broad, deep basin. *Flesh*, white, fine grained, buttery, melting, juicy, but wanting somewhat in richness. Though quite agreeable, it is not such a pear as one's palate is eager to encounter again without an interval; having the property of satiating, for the time, beyond most other varieties. *Season*, last of October.

8. Serrurier.

Fruit, above medium, broad obtuse pyriform. *Skin*, yellow, covered with small brown specks. *Stem*, three quarters of an inch, inserted without depression. *Calyx*, small, in a broad shallow basin. *Flesh*, white, coarse grained, full of a rich, agreeably acidulated juice, very slightly astringent, and with a delicate bergamot flavor. Much like the Oswego Beurré in consistence and taste, but less highly flavored. The saccharine and acid are gratefully blended, and the fruit is one of the most agreeable of the vinous sort. *Tree* is prosperous on the quince. *Season*, last of October.

9. Zephirine Gregoire.

Fruit, medium, broad, obtuse pyriform. *Skin*, yellowish green. *Stem*, very

stout, inserted usually in a fleshy prominence. *Calyx*, closed, in a broad, shallow basin. *Flesh*, yellowish white, rather coarse grained, very juicy, buttery, melting, and sweet, with a fine bergamot flavor. In consistence and quality much like, and often quite equal to, Belle Lucrative, being only a little less sweet, or rather, perhaps, a little more vinous. *Tree*, a free grower, making a fine natural pyramid on the quince, a great bearer, and the fruit hangs well on the tree. *Season*, October.

It will be observed, probably, that in two or three of these descriptions I have represented the fruit to be without flavor. I felt warranted in this by the definition of the word, as given by a high authority in etymology, namely, "Flavor is the *rarefied essence* of bodies which affects the organ of taste;" derived, he suggests, from the Latin *flo*, to breathe; the action of the breath being necessary to detect it, while the *palpable* properties, as sweet or sour, are as readily perceived when the breathing is suspended as when it is in action. The propriety of this definition can be illustrated by a simple experiment. Take the Seckel pear, for instance; let the nostrils be closed, and the most industrious mastication will fail to convey to the mind any thing but an idea of its luscious sweetness; this, not being a "rarefied essence," is therefore not flavor, it is simply *taste*. Now let the thumb and finger be relaxed—for I suppose the experimenter during this brief trial has been holding his dignity by the nose—and the first expiration, the first *outward* passage of the breath over the olfactories, will reveal to him the sense of its high musky aroma, and this, being a "rarefied essence," is its flavor. If the reader is too impatient to await the possession of a ripe Seckel, the experiment can be made at once by substituting any of the flavored productions of the confectioner.

The pears in question, therefore, lacking this essential property, were described, as the fact demanded, as without flavor. This, however, does not necessarily detract from the character of the fruit, for there are others of the highest quality destitute in the same particular.

Having seen that the loose employment of this word had already led to error, and knowing that a continued abuse of it would always be liable to lead to the same result, I ventured to suggest, in an article published in the HORTICULTURIST for April, 1859, that it be employed in pomological descriptions in its strict sense only. In a subsequent number of the HORTICULTURIST, this suggestion was discountenanced with characteristic ardor by your correspondent, "A Buffalonian;" and the idea of the word, as presented by me, was sharply criticized. In this, his quarrel was not with me, but with him who, seeing the necessity for the word, invented it. I only required that its legitimate signification be adhered to. It is not comprehensible to me why the qualities of a pear whose flesh is described as having a delicious mixture of sugar and acid, or however it might be, would not be as truthfully realized as though the customary ecstasies were indulged in by the introduction and varied performances of the word "flavor," in connection with every quality of the fruit but the right one. In so far as pomology is a science,

the demand is imperative, in my judgment, that its terms should be exact in signification, and rigid in application. By such an employment of language made universal, its dignity would be asserted, confusion in its descriptions avoided, the reputation of valuable fruits no longer placed in jeopardy by unintentional disparagement, and Mr. Downing and Mr. Thomas be enabled to understand each other.

[It were much to be wished that terms were used in pomology with somewhat more exactness and propriety than is often the case, and that there were a better understanding among writers on this subject. Here there is room for improvement; and we should be glad to have the subject fairly and candidly discussed. *Flavor*, according to our apprehension, is an essence or quality which affects both taste and smell, but the latter in an indirect manner. *Aroma* affects the sense of smell alone. We refer to what we conceive to be the primary meaning of these words; and in this sense they could well be used to denote two distinct qualities in fruits. Some kinds possess one quality only; others, both; as, for example, the Bartlett has both flavor and aroma. It is important that there should be some well-defined, distinctive use of these terms. We shall be glad to hear what our readers have to say on the subject.—Ed.]

THE APIARY.—I.

BY M. QUINBY.

Since I have been a reader of the Horticulturist, I find that your contributors have entirely neglected this important branch of rural economy. The locality of the apiary allies it to horticulture even more than agriculture. Its appropriate place is the garden, yard, or lawn; yet there is scarcely an agricultural journal that does not devote a portion of its columns to this subject.

Among the many adornments with which we are wont to beautify our grounds, there is none which forms so attractive a feature, and which can be so reasonably expected to defray its own expenses, as the apiary. With the increasing interest that has recently been given it, has come the movable comb hive—the only improvement—giving us facilities for studying minutely every part of the interior, thus enabling us to become familiar with the natural history of the bee, which is satisfactory in itself, and enhances our success in management. The Italian bee, lately imported, besides the numerous other good qualities which are ascribed to it, is less disposed to sting, which will remove, in a great measure, the objection to apiculture heretofore existing in many places.

Probably very many readers of the Horticulturist are desirous of introducing

the apiary as a *profitable ornament* to their yard, and are only waiting some suggestions for a satisfactory arrangement to make a beginning. For their encouragement, and the promotion of Bee culture generally, in the absence of something better, I will offer a few remarks on the subject.

As success depends upon our understanding the nature of the bee, rather than on any chance or luck, I would suggest, as a lesson elementary, that its habits be well understood. The hive, and its arrangement in the apiary, should also receive proper attention.

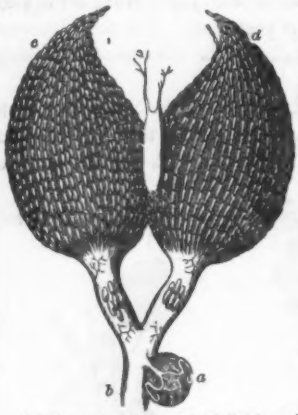
Every prosperous swarm or family of bees must contain one queen, several thousand workers, and, part of the year, a few hundred drones.

QUEEN.

WORKER.

DRONE.

The queen is the mother of the entire family, often depositing more than two thousand eggs in twenty-four hours. In shape she resembles the worker more than the drone, but is longer than either, and, like the worker, has a sting, but will not use it for any thing below royalty. Her color on the upper side is darker than the others; the two posterior legs and under side are bright copper-color. In some of them a yellow stripe nearly encircles the abdomen at the joints. All the colors are bright and glossy, having but little of the down or hair that covers the drone and worker. Different queens vary much in color; some are much darker than others. A still greater variation is presented in the Italian queens, most of which are of a rich golden color, while a few are even darker than the native usually are. For the first few days after leaving the cell her size is much less than after she has assumed her maternal duties. She seldom, perhaps never leaves the hive, except when leading out a swarm, and when but a few days old, to meet the drones for the purpose of fecundation. It has been admitted generally, and now, by the introduction of the Italian bee, still further demonstrated, that the drones are males, that sexual connection takes place in the air—performing their amors on the wing—and that one impregnation is operative for life. It is also supposed, by many, who have examined the subject, that the eggs formed in the ovaries of the queen are without sex; that the simple act of her depositing them in worker or drone cells will decide it, as explained by the following theory. The fertilizing fluid is contained in a small sac, as shown in the engraving, the opening of which the eggs must pass as they are deposited.



(*a*) Sac, containg seminal fluid, and opening into the viaduct (*b*). (*c*, *d*) the ovaries.

The abdomen of the queen, on being inserted in the worker cell to deposit the egg, is compressed sufficiently to cause a flow of seminal fluid that fertilizes it. The drone cells are larger, and the abdomen receives no pressure in the act of laying; the egg passes without becoming impregnated, and a drone is the result. The eggs of an unimpregnated queen possess sufficient vitality to hatch drones; whether they are deposited in drone cells, or worker cells, the bee is the same. An Italian queen, impregnated by a common drone, will produce a mixed progeny of workers, yet the whole brood of drones are pure Italians. This fact is of much importance for apiarians who wish to change their native stocks into the Italians. Eggs that the queen has deposited in drone cells can never be converted into queens. Although the experiment has been frequently made, no one as yet has reported success. But eggs that have been deposited in worker cells, and consequently impregnated, can be changed to queens with scarcely a failure. The whole process consists in shutting up without a queen a few hundred bees with a piece of comb containing eggs or young larvæ; in a few days they will convert one or more of these into queens: another important principle in propagating Italian bees.

The cells in which queens are raised, differ essentially from those for either the worker or drone. The two latter are made alike, and differ only in size; while the one for the queen is several times larger than either, altogether different in shape, and material enough is used in constructing one to build fifty of the others. These cells are located, usually, on the edges of the combs, in stocks that are preparing to send out natural swarms, and they make the cell vertical from the beginning. It is somewhat oval in shape, half an inch in diameter, and an inch in length; the situation affords the requisite room without interfering with any thing below it. When compelled to rear queens from worker eggs, they vary their work in accordance with the circumstances, destroying a few common cells directly below the one that is to be changed, and then work it outward and downward, making it crooked and seemingly out of place, yet it answers all purposes of changing a worker to a queen.

The food with which the embyo queen is nursed has probably as much influence in the marvellous transformation as the shape and size of cell. It is not only different from what is fed to the common brood in quality, but much greater in quantity. She lies half buried in food, which is a mass of light-colored, jelly-like substance, prepared and deposited without stint. This treatment develops the

mature queen in seventeen days, while the worker is twenty-one, from the egg to the mature bee. Her age is limited to about four years.

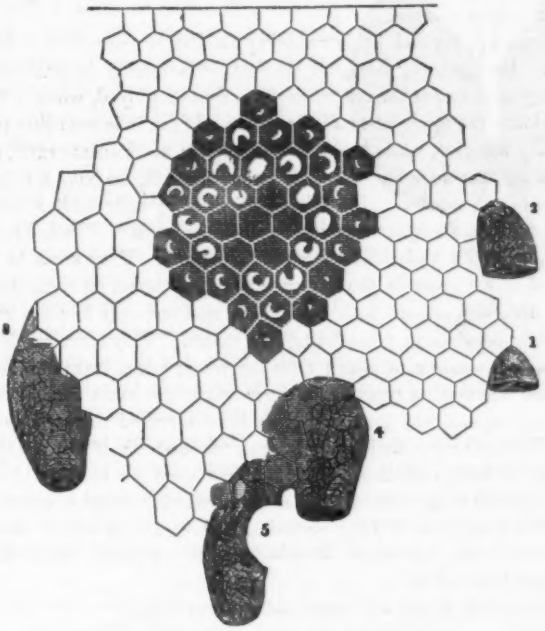


PLATE OF THE THREE KINDS OF CELLS.

The cut represents the eggs and larvæ in the common cells. At 1, queen cell just commenced; 2, one sufficiently advanced to receive the egg; 4, queen matured and left; 3 contains a queen; 5, queen been destroyed and removed by the workers; 6, cell just commenced to change a worker grub to a queen; 7, such cell finished.

All labor devolves on the workers. They are provided with a sac or bag for honey; basket-like cavities are on their legs, where they pack the pollen of the flowers into little pellets convenient to bring home. They range the fields for honey and pollen, secrete wax, construct combs, prepare food to nurse the young, bring water, obtain propolis to seal up crevices and flaws about the hive, stand guard to keep out intruders, &c., &c. For the defence of their treasures and themselves, they are provided with a sting and a virulent poison, but will not use it when abroad if unmolested, volunteering an attack only when near the hive. They are all females with organs of generation undeveloped, yet they have enough of the mother about them to make good nurses for the brood of the real mother. For near two weeks after the young worker emerges from its cell, it is almost exclusively engaged within the hive; it then assists in collecting stores.

Its age is from one to eight months, according to the season in which it is hatched. In the busiest season it lasts but a few weeks; at the beginning of cool weather, for several months.

These things are verified by introducing an Italian queen into a full stock of native bees. Her progeny being all marked, it is readily ascertained when the first is mature and leaves the cell where it is first employed, when it first leaves the hive, and at what age it first collects stores. When it is seen that the marked bees gradually increase, while the others disappear in the same ratio, and at the end of a few months none but the new variety are left, we have a reliable index as to the age of the worker. The drone is the male; their bodies are large and clumsy, and without the symmetry of the queen or worker. Their buzzing, when on the wing, is louder and different from the others. They seem to be of the least value of either class in the community; they assist, on some occasions, to keep up the necessary animal heat in the hive, and one only in a few thousand is called upon for services in fecundating the queen. They leave the hive a little after noon in fair weather, at which time the young queen issues to meet them. To prevent the necessity of repeating her excursions too many times before being successful, may explain why there are more drones reared than at first appears necessary. The number reared depends upon the strength of the colony, and the stores on hand or being collected. A colony very weak, or near the starving condition, can not afford to have them. Whenever a scarcity of honey occurs, whether it be the first of June, last of July, or last of September, the whole brood is destroyed after removing the larvæ and chrysalis from the cell. Their life is very precarious, being cut off at the end of a few hours, or extended to a few days, weeks, or months, but averaging much less than the worker.

(*To be continued.*)

[Believing Bee-culture to be a profitable as well as ornamental accessory to Horticulture, we welcome Mr. Quinby's contributions with decided pleasure. His articles will be fully illustrated, and in their course several designs for ornamental Bee-houses will be given. The introduction of the Italian Bee has given a new impetus to apiculture, and enabled us to decide several important and interesting facts, as well as developed some new ones. The whole subject is charmingly interesting.—Ed.]

THE VERBENA.—No. 2.

BY A. VEITCH, NEW HAVEN, CONN.

In reply to Mr. Pentland's strictures on my article on the Verbena, it may be remarked at the outset that I do not quite agree with him regarding the consequences likely to arise from discussing questions relating to horticulture, provided such

discussions are conducted in a liberal and candid spirit, and "when the thing sought is truth rather than victory;" believing, as I do, that truth has never eventually suffered from having her claims to acceptance and belief freely investigated, but has come out of all such trials that "bright and shining thing" she ever was and ever shall be.

I disclaim all personal motives in what I have said, or may yet say, on this subject. In proof of this, it is enough to state that I do not cultivate flowers for sale, and, of course, do not "depend upon the public for my bread and butter." And as I make no pretensions to being an Englishman, I have no greater reason for feeling sensitive on account of any thing said of them, than Mr. Pentland himself. This being the case, his references to "beef" and "plum pudding," &c., are meaningless, being entirely wanting in application. It is needless, however, to mention nationalities in a dispute like this. I recognize none. In matters relating to horticulture, I am willing to "smoke the peace-pipe" with Frenchmen, Englishmen, Germans, and Americans; and would have a word to say in behalf of any or all of them, and Mr. Pentland himself, should they or he be unjustly assailed. I did think, however, Mr. Pentland talked of a respectable class of men in rather a flippant and disrespectful manner, and dealt them some side thrusts which, to say the least, were not creditable to his magnanimity. It seems, however, we have been all wrong in supposing he said any thing derogatory to the English florists. We accept his explanation, but can not help thinking his statements looked rather obscure, and very likely to be misunderstood.

It seems to be a foregone conclusion with some, that varieties of the Verbena originating in England are not so well adapted to the American climate as those raised here. Now, on this subject there may be a diversity of opinion. It can not be disputed, we think, that many which do well there, when brought to this country do not give satisfaction, owing, no doubt, to peculiarities of constitution which fit them for the one climate and not for the other. But to suppose that foreign varieties generally do not succeed as well here as natives, can only be a gratuitous assumption, and is by no means supported by facts. I am utterly at a loss to understand how the influence of climate operates upon the "morphological law of change" in the production of new varieties, so as to fit them better for one climate than another. It seems far more in accordance with known facts to suppose that varieties come into existence in every country not suited to that country, and, of course, cease to be grown there; whereas, were they taken to a location every way adapted to their peculiar temperaments, "the case being altered, would alter the case." So far as I have been able to investigate this nice question, the conclusion forces itself upon me that it matters little, if at all, where varieties originate, as to whether they are "good growers, fine bloomers, and their colors not burn out with the sun;" and rather think these properties are bestowed upon some, and not on others, from the operation of occult causes not subject to the control of climate at all. By a careful collation of facts, the evidence in support of this proposition becomes overpowering.

And further, I believe the experience of the best florists will bear me out in saying that imported varieties, in general, grow quite as vigorously and stand the sun as well as native sorts. In proof of this, do not Robinson's Defiance, Mrs. Woodruff, General Simpson, and dozens more which could be named, do better than "tolerably well," and a hundredfold better than such home productions as Uncle Tom, Chenedole, Painted Lady, (what a name!) and many more, really good, if they could be made to grow better, and their colors not "burn out?"

Mr. Pentland asks if I suppose this thing of pandering to this European opinion is all right, and that we Americans do not know a good flower when we see it. He can not have inferred from any thing I have said that I entertain any such opinion. I do not hesitate to say, however, I believe the people in this country far better "posted" on fruits than flowers. And if they bestowed one fourth the attention on flowers they so devotedly do on fruits, floriculture would soon be in that condition so much desired by its best friends. If there is such a thing as pandering at all, I most surely think it wrong. But even granting it true, there does not seem to be any thing about it to frighten any one. And, withal, it may have been productive of greater good than Mr. Pentland would be willing to admit.

The state of society in this country is greatly different from what it is in some of the countries in Europe; England, for example. Here the wealthy classes generally are a little more gregarious than the same class there. Here they may purchase land and a home for themselves one year, and sell it the next; whereas in Britain the landocracy at least have their estates secured to themselves and their heirs by the laws of primogeniture and entail. On these estates they can plant gardens and build conservatories without the apprehension of one day seeing them in the possession of strangers. And they generally do this on a scale proportionate to their means. These places are mostly superintended by gardeners, who, as a class, are intelligent, and have had to go through a regular course of training for many years before they can be so promoted. From the position they occupy, they have many facilities for making their influence felt and acknowledged as no mean power in carrying forward every thing relating to horticulture to still more advanced posts on the highway of improvement. In short, gardeners there are not the drudges too many of them are here, but have time to collect every valuable plant within their reach, and purchase novelties. With these as a stock to work upon, they, by *selecting seed from plants only which indicate the points they wish more fully to develop*, and by letting "patience have her perfect work," sometimes even astonish themselves with the progress made. And then, the professional florists pursue their calling with a devotedness and zeal worthy of the cause in which they are engaged. Their local, provincial, and metropolitan shows; their published standards of flowers for the guidance of growers, competitors, and judges at exhibitions; these reasons, and many more which could be given, have served to place floriculture in a high position indeed in that country.

As already hinted at, floriculture is not so high in public favor in America as its best friends would wish; not that any one class in the country is directly to blame, but rather it has not had sufficient time to grow. Of course, while in this state much can be done for its advancement, by professional florists especially. Who are they, and what is their mission? Are they not the administrators of its laws, the monitors in its schools, the professors in its seminaries, and the men above all others, from the positions they occupy, who mold and give complexion to public sentiment and taste in things relating to their profession? There are many good and true florists throughout the country who fully sustain this character, and I have no doubt but Mr. Pentland is one of them; but these may live far apart, and be jostled on every side by quite an inferior class, who, being

"Blind of one eye, and with the other squint,"

bring every thing relating to the business into disrepute in the estimation of "the discerning public," and cause them to look even beyond the seas for a redress of the grievances inflicted upon them by those who may be good and honest enough in their intentions, but not sufficiently indoctrinated in the secrets of the art to make them reliable guides to such as need a better judgment than their own to lean upon.

Mr. Pentland is not insensible to the low state of floriculture in the country, but surely he must be mistaken in attributing the cause thereof to the "pandering to European opinion." If it had been in a worse condition in Europe than it is here, and the people obstinately persisted in turning their faces toward the east in search of something to admire, not from any inherent value in those objects, but blinded and led away by the names by which they may be called, then it might in justice be said of them, they are the veriest "panderers," and their conduct savors rankly of "toadyism." But when the opposite of this is true, as could be proved to the satisfaction of every candid mind, we can not help thinking that, instead of this leaning upon European opinions being a check upon your own progress, it has been a principal power in craning up public taste to the position it now occupies. It may be true that certain parties have shown their "gullibility" by refusing to pay a high price for American seedlings until they received European names; but this militates no more against the position we seek to establish, than a hypocrite in society does against the fact of honest men being there also. or counterfeit coin in a country against the genuine and true metal. Does not the one rather prove that there is virtue in the one case to be simulated, and value in the other to be feigned? Perhaps redundancies grow out of the system which would be better pruned away; but how these manifest themselves I do not know, and humbly think Mr. Pentland has hitherto failed to point them out.

We believe a new era in floriculture is at hand, but even during that period, the practice of collecting flowers, new and good, will not be stopped, but receive a fresh impulse from every forward movement it makes. And instead of complaining of

this as "humiliating" to yourselves, it seems to me a reason why you ought to feel proud. Humiliating, forsooth! Viewing the question in this aspect, the Europeans must have well-nigh reached the *nadir* of their humiliation. What country in the world have they not explored in search of new plants? as witness the labors of Humboldt, and Bonpland, Tweedie, and Lobb, and Douglass, (poor Douglass!) and Fortune, and Veitch, (Exeter Veitch.) They are grateful to you for your magnificent trees, beautiful shrubs, and interesting herbaceous plants; and, bating these, you sent them their first white verbena, as well as many other things really valuable, for which they have not been ungrateful. Why, then, think it "humiliating" to take from them in return their greatest novelties and newest patterns? These, added to everything good of your own raising, must enhance the value of your stock, and multiply your chances of keeping forward in the march of improvement. The fact that there is a demand for every thing good in the way of new flowers, come from what quarter they may, speaks well for the state of public feeling, and unmistakably indicates a better time for floriculture than any that has gone before. And although the portentous omen Mr. Pentland calls "pandering" has spread itself over the whole floricultural heaven, frightening timid souls with imaginary evils, it is surcharged with no influences hurtful to your interests, but is only a "sable cloud" that

"Turns forth her silver lining on the night."

and even now gives out as much light as to show your own entanglement, and the way of escape to a more hopeful and better-ordered state of things.

[We are by no means disinclined to have this subject continued, for we can perceive wherein much good may come from it. In the end there will be established a greater unanimity than has heretofore prevailed, and a better understanding of the whole subject.—Ed.]

CAMELLIA SPIRALIS RUBRA.

(*See Frontispiece.*)

BY THE EDITOR.

We present for a *frontispiece* this month a remarkable Camellia raised by the late Noel J. Becar, in his day one of the first Camellia amateurs in the country. This is the Camellia which Mr. Becar first dedicated to A. J. Downing; but this name was subsequently given to another seedling, of which we also have a plate. The flower now presented has never been named, but by some has been vulgarly called the *Screw*, a name more expressive than elegant. We now give it the name of *Spiralis rubra*. The form, as now given, is constant, and not a mere variation. It will be noticed that the spirals are remarkably symmetrical, and we have never

seen them otherwise. The color and substance are unexceptionable, and the habit good; and among those who admire a departure from ordinary forms, it will become a popular plant. Our drawing was taken from a plant grown by Mr. Humphreys, of Brooklyn, who has the original stock.

REMARKS UPON HARD-WOODED GREEN-HOUSE PLANTS.

BY DANIEL BARKER, HARTFORD, CONN.

In potting delicate and sickly plants, (a few of which I had the good fortune to handle a few months since,) such as *Epacris*, *Erica*, *Helichrysum*, *Boronia*, &c., indeed, most if not all hard-wooded green-house plants, the greatest care is necessary. In the first place, we will suppose that the plants in spring are found in a dirty, sickly, neglected state; (upon this point I speak quite feelingly.) The plants should be taken carefully out of their pots, and if it be found, upon examination, they are making fresh roots, they may be potted in the same sized pots again, reducing the ball of earth about one third. Should the roots be very strong, a size larger pot may be used. In either case its own peculiar soil may be used, made somewhat more sandy than usual, and the greatest precaution taken that the pot is well drained, (the arguments advanced by Un Sot—a triple Etage—to the contrary notwithstanding.) The soil, in potting, should be made quite firm, being careful not to leave a vacuity between the roots and the sides of the pot. When potted, the plants should be removed to the green-house or cool frame, where they can have plenty of light, and be shaded when necessary, until they are well established.

Should the plants be sickly in consequence of being over-potted, or the soil become sour or sodden with water, a considerable quantity of soil must be removed from their roots, without injuring any of their fibers which may be alive. They should then be potted in as small pots as the roots can reasonably be compressed into, rendering the soil quite firm both among and around the roots. Should the ball be found very wet, it will be well to allow it to become somewhat dry before it is repotted. Our practice in repotting hard-wooded green-house plants, is invariably to elevate the center at each potting, having found by experience that the genus *Erica*, and all New Holland plants, are greatly benefited thereby. Nothing can be more injurious to plants of this class than keeping them low in their pots; indeed, as a general rule, with few exceptions, no plants should be placed lower than they were in their former pots. After this operation is performed, the plants should be placed in a close frame or green-house, where the temperature can be kept rather warmer than in an ordinary green-house. In such a situation they will soon commence to grow, (the necessary care and attention being given them,) and in due time become quite recovered. But if no such convenience is at hand, they may be placed in the closest part of the green-house, where

they can enjoy plenty of light, and be shaded from the rays of the sun until they are sufficiently recovered to bear exposure without wilting.

Great care is necessary in the application of water; frequent supplies in moderate quantities should be the standard rule.

Should a plant become sickly during the summer, it should be submitted to the course above recommended without delay. If in the fall, they should be repotted and kept in a warm part of the green-house until the following spring; but if in the winter it is perceived that any are becoming sickly, it will be found best to let them remain until the month of March, giving them as little water as possible during that period, after which they may be treated as above recommended.

GRAPE AND WINE CULTURE IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

BY OUR CALIFORNIA CORRESPONDENT, J. Q. A. W.

The cultivation of the Grape has been attended with unparalleled success, even beyond that of the most prolific countries of Europe; but, owing to causes which have now become known, the manufacture of wine has not been attended with that success which should be warranted. Some outside parties have bought up cheap wines, doctored them up, and then thrown them upon the market, to the great discredit of those honorably engaged in the business. Capital is needed to develop. No fair test has yet been made, as sufficient time has not been allowed for the wine to attain a proper age; and it has been sent to market regardless of reputation, in order to realize for the outlay. Again, the great expense attending the manufacture of the wine in this country, the scarcity of capital, owing to the high rates of money, and storing it until it has attained a sufficient degree of perfection, have caused new and immature wines, improperly made, to be forced upon the market, to the great injury of the article in this country. These errors will be avoided by time, experience, and study, and the business come under the control of parties sufficiently able, pecuniarily and otherwise, to carry it on safely and scientifically; then the evils will in a great measure be avoided, under which this business now suffers, and wines will be produced in this country which will not be inferior to foreign manufacture, but will even surpass them.

During a late trip to Los Angeles, I had the pleasure of visiting the prominent vineyards and wine manufacturing establishments for which this county is so famous. Some of my reports have already been published in the Stock Journal; and as many of your readers may have an interest in these matters, I will at this time give a brief sketch of the famous vineyard and orchard of Wm. Wolfskill, situated in the southern portion of the town, having inclosed some hundred and forty acres, a hundred and five of which are devoted to vineyard and orchard, and fifty-five acres to the vineyard alone.

This vineyard is the largest in the city, containing over one hundred thousand

vines; ninety thousand vines being in bearing, and fifteen thousand two-year old vines. The crop of grapes the past season was over seven hundred thousand pounds.

In the orchard there are a large number of the most approved varieties of fruit trees, pear, peach, apple, plum, &c., all looking well; also figs, limes, citrons, walnuts, olives, oranges, etc., in profusion, and bearing full crops. The grounds are laid out with much taste and neatness. The crops of the English walnuts amount to from two to three thousand pounds, and are superior in flavor to those imported. These are sent to market, commanding about fifteen cents per pound. The olive trees were particularly attractive, from their fresh green foliage. These are long lived, hardier than other trees, and bear profusely. Among the tropical fruits, however, Mr. Wolfskill has devoted much time and care to the cultivation of the orange, having in bearing some forty large trees, which present a most beautiful appearance. There is besides an orchard of some two thousand more, about seven years old, and nearly in bearing. This is the largest and finest orange grove in the State. The fruit thrives well in the southern portion of the State, where the climate is warmer and more genial than in other portions.

The trees are in full bearing at fourteen years of age, and continue to the age of fifty or upwards. The earliest period of bearing is about the seventh year. The foliage is beautiful and green the year round, and the trees are very bushy at the top, growing to the height of thirty to forty feet, and when in full bearing have often to be propped up, on account of the weight of fruit. They bear from one to three thousand oranges each, when in a healthy state, and the fruit commands a ready market and good price. Many of these trees have netted Mr. W. from $100 to $150 each. The fruit commences to change color about November, and ripens about January to February. A disease has of late attacked the orange in the shape of a scale insect, called the *Cocus Hesperidum*, the ravages of which have much diminished the crops, as well as injured the trees, and no remedy has yet been found which has proved successful in their destruction. In some orange-growing countries, an insect which preys upon this has been introduced, which has destroyed the scale insect, and been the means of preserving the trees from the ravages which had proved so destructive. I have much matter of interest connected with orange culture, which I will perhaps introduce at another time.

Mr. Wolfskill, formerly a trapper, came to this country in 1831, and has been on the present place since March, 1838. He is a very industrious old man, and dresses very plainly, yet seems to enjoy an easy and contented life. His estate is very valuable, and, as I remarked, the orchard and vineyard are the largest and finest in the state. In a few years, the orange crop must amount to quite a fortune in itself.

Messrs. Kohler & Frohling have purchased, the present season, the entire grape crop, as they have for the last four years, and manufactured the same into wine in Mr. Wolfskill's place, where the large cellars and distilleries are. The principal

building is new, and made of brick, being 140 feet long and 20 feet high. They have one brick cellar for storing the wine, 100 feet long; another large cellar, 85 feet long by 50 feet wide, built of adobe, with brick wall around, which will store over sixty thousand gallons. In these cellars are to be seen the large pipes of wine. Altogether, the cellars contain over one hundred thousand gallons of wine. There are also cellars running under the entire house, full of wine.

The crops the present season, from the Wolfskill vineyard, will produce from forty-five to fifty thousand gallons of wine. Messrs. K. & F. have also purchased the crops from the following vineyards, to wit, the "Ramons Valenzuela" vineyard, "Don Andreas," "Isidora Reys," "Azuza Ranch," "Wm. Workman," (La Puente) and "Ellis Moulton." The whole crop of wine amounts to about 145,000 gallons. They employ during the wine season about forty Indians, paying them from fifty to seventy-five cents per day.

The close of the vintage of 1850 was celebrated by a fête or "Harvest Home," to which all who had participated in the manufacture, as well as a large number of invited guests and members of the press, were present. My absence from the city, (being on a tour in the country,) alone prevented my accepting an invitation to be present.

In connection with the above, I will state that Mr. Stern is now on his way to New York, to open a house for the sale of these wines, under the firm name of Perkins and Stern, as a branch house of Kohler and Frohling. The establishment will be open about the first of March, the wines being expected to arrive about that time, some one hundred pipes being on the way, of all the varieties of wine manufactured, to be followed by regular shipments. In the establishment in San Francisco are some ten large cellars, containing about seventy-five thousand gallons of wine, of different brands and vintages.

I have alluded to the above establishment somewhat at length, that your readers may have some idea of one of the prominent establishments in Los Angeles. There are other manufacturers of equal merit, as Sansevaine Bros., M. Keller, Hoaver, White, Wilson, &c., whom I may allude to at another time.

There has been of late much complaint regarding California wines, from the causes alluded to, and owing to shipments east of poor wines, which have most unfortunately thrown a discredit upon the article. Some articles have appeared in different journals here concerning the matter, in vindication and otherwise; and a late article in the Shipping List, concerning a shipment to New York of cheap wines, may have an injurious tendency which should be corrected. Soon after the article appeared, in November, a reply was made by a well-known correspondent, through the columns of the Echo de Pacifique, which would not be out of place here, but would place the subject in a true light, and I can vouch for its correctness.

I can heartily endorse the article, and hope it will be read with interest, should you find room for it in your columns.

I myself can speak with some knowledge of the increase of this business, having

followed it up for the past year, and during my last visit to Los Angeles had ample opportunity for visiting all the wine making establishments in the place. I can attest with knowledge of the house of Sansevaine Bros., of Los Angeles. Any one who may have visited their large establishment during the wine-making season, as was my pleasure, would see their wine-presses, rollers, crusher, &c., in full operation, and all put up in the latest French style, and any doubt as to their ability of manufacturing wines would have vanished. This house alone presses forty-five thousand pounds of grapes daily, which yield three thousand gallons of wine.

In my next, I will make further reference to this subject, alluding to the prospects of wine culture in California, and a glance at the establishment of Messrs. Sansevaine Brothers. I send you copies of the report on Grape culture, lately published. This subject is, as you see, attracting great attention, and great results are expected; and so for the present, *Adios*.

[The above is the beginning of a series of articles from California, written by a gentleman thoroughly familiar with the subject, and who handles the "pen of a ready writer," having for some time been a member of the "corps editorial." We have no doubt these articles will be found deeply interesting. We have omitted the extract alluded to above for want of room. Mr. Stern, above mentioned, is now in New York.—Ed.]

EDITOR'S TABLE.

To Contributors and others.

Communications, Letters, Catalogues, Periodicals, &c., intended for the perusal of the Editor, and packages by Express, should be directed to the care of C. M. Saxton, 25 Park Row, New York. Exchanges should be addressed to "THE HORTICULTURIST."

We appear late this month, but for reasons beyond our control. The sad times in which we live have caused changes in our publishing house and business relations, and the adjustment of these has rendered it impossible to issue the July number at an earlier moment. It is really a cause for sympathy, and not for complaint, and we trust our readers will so regard it. Hereafter we shall be enabled to appear promptly.

A CHANGE.—The reader will notice a change in our dress. It is one we have long desired to make, and which we think will give general satisfaction. We have others in view, but they must bide the times.

THE CURCULIO.—There being few or no plums this year for the Curculio to operate on, it has betaken itself, in multitudes, to the Pear, the Apple, and the "black knot." Apples and Pears are falling freely from the trees, almost every fallen specimen having been stung three or four times, and in not a few cases we have counted upwards of a dozen punctures on the same fruit. In two or three instances we have taken from fifteen to twenty larvæ of the Curculio from the same "knot." We allude to the subject now, not for the purpose of making any extended remarks, but to request our readers to examine their fruits, and report such facts as they may observe in connection with this subject. The Apple will be found to be suffering especially from this cause. It will be interesting to learn how far the plum protects us from the loss of the apple crop.

FAIRFIELD CO. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Under this name our friends in Fairfield County have formed a Horticultural Society, to whom we extend a most hearty welcome. The movement originated, we believe, with Mr. Davenport, of Stamford, who has met with a hearty coöperation; and so vigorously has the project been pushed, that within a few weeks of the formation of the Society a successful public exhibition has been held. If the same spirit continues to animate them, we shall expect to hear great things of the Fairfield County Horticultural Society. The county is wealthy, and contains plenty of material for a useful and permanent Society. From a report sent us by one of the officers of the Society, we condense the following account of its first exhibition.

The exhibition was held in Washington Hall, Bridgeport. The room was tastefully decorated with greens, and on the walls were a number of fine old paintings, loaned for the occasion. Three long tables were placed across the room; the first was covered with plates of strawberries, interspersed with bouquets; the second, or central one, was devoted to plants and flowers; and the third to apples, cherries, and grapes. The sides of the room were given to roses, vegetables, native wines, &c. The music was furnished by Prof. Spinning, assisted by Messrs. Spinning and the Messrs. Balcomb as a quartette. The Star-Spangled Banner, Red, White, and Blue, and Good Night, were finely sung by a youthful choir from Mr. Strong's High School and Mr. Peck's Golden Hill School. The display of fruits, flowers, and vegetables was highly creditable for a beginning, and the exhibition may be regarded as a good success. The company seemed to enjoy themselves greatly, and to feel proud that they had started a society. Let their pride hereafter consist in properly sustaining it. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Strawberries.—1st premium, S. W. Faulkner, Stamford, $2. 2d premium, James Wilson, E. Bridgeport, $1. 1st premium, best three dishes, John North, Bridgeport, $1. 1st premium, best two dishes, J. B. Hoyt, Stamford, $1.

Grapes.—1st premium, best five dishes, F. Payne, Westport, $2. 1st premium, best 10 dishes, J. North, Bridgeport, $2. 2d premium, best two dishes, George Elder, Stamford, $1. 1st premium, two vines in pots, Oliver Hoyt, Stamford, $1. 2d premium, two vines in pots, J. R. Hoyt, Stamford, $1.

Cherries.—1st premium, H. W. Chatfield, Bridgeport, 50 cents. 2d premium, C. M. Noble, East Bridgeport, 50 cents.

Flowers.—1st premium, Plants, Frederic Fervena, (Gardener to N. Wheeler,) $2. 2d premium, J. Grant, Bridgeport, $1 50. 1st Hardy Perpetual Rose, Lindley & Hinks, Bridgeport, $1. 2d premium, Hardy Perpetual Rose, F. McNamara (Gardener to E. Howe, Jr.,) Fairfield, dip. 3d premium, Hardy Perpetual Rose, F. Fervena, dip. 1st premium, Bouquets, William Brown, $1. 2d premium, Bouquets, Thomas Geraty, (Gardener to O. Hoyt,) $1. 3d premium, two Bouquets, J. Gilletie, Fairfield, $1. 4th premium, three Bouquets, Lindley & Hinks, Bridgeport, $1. 4th premium, one Bouquet Wild Flowers, Mrs. Avery, Newtown, dip.

Vegetables.—1st premium, eight varieties, J. Meachem, Stratford, $1. 2d premium, 9 varieties, M. Shanley, $1. 1st premium, Kahoon Rhubarb, J. B. Hoyt. 2d premium, Kahoon Rhubarb, I. H. Whiting, Bridgeport, 50 cents. 1st premium, Cherry Currants, J. De Martin, Membership ticket. 2d premium, Cherry Currants, A. Lyon, 50 cents. 1st premium, five pots of Okra, Rev. M. Smith. 1st premium, Cucumbers, E. Curtis, Membership ticket.

Wine.—1st premium, best col. Native Wine, F. B. Wheeler, Bridgeport, $1 50. 2d premium, col. Native Wine, T. Benedict, $1. 3d premium, four vintages Native Currant, N. F. Peck, $1. 4th premium, fine Rhubarb, T. Benedict, dip.

The Rose Bug.—Contrary to our expectations, and, we may add, past experience, the Rose Bug is this season more abundant than we remember to have seen them for a dozen years past. They have usually been comparatively scarce after a very severe winter; but the past winter, though one of almost unexampled severity, seems to have had no effect in lessening their numbers. About New York it may be said, almost literally, that there are no cherries for them to eat; but the grape, the rose, and the leaves of the vine and the cherry tree, are suffering terribly, and the woods swarm with them. Every horticulturist ought to declare a deadly war against them. Organize Anti-Rose Bug Societies; arm yourselves with a basin of water and a stick; give the limb a gentle tap, and they will drop in the basin; you have then nothing to do but crush the life out of them with your foot. A less tedious plan is to spread a sheet under the vine or tree to catch them as they fall; but it is not so sure, since, after falling three or four feet, they often take to the wing. Their destruction must be secured in some way; their existence can only be tolerated at the expense of half our crop of cherries and grapes, to say nothing of minor evils.

Ornamental Flower Pots.—Mr. Eberhardt has placed on our table specimens of flower pots made of metal. They are of pretty design and neatly painted. The saucer is attached to the pot by a simple contrivance, which does not interfere with drainage. For the parlor, as a receptacle of the common earthenware pot, they are very pretty; but for the ordinary purposes of growing plants we do not think they are well suited.

Wire Baskets.—Mr. Davenport, of Stamford, has sent us a new pattern of wire basket, with which we are much pleased. The design is very pretty, and the work is done in a most thorough manner, as is the case with all the wire work of Mr. Davenport that we have seen.

Brooklyn Horticultural Society.—We are indebted to Mr. Miller, the energetic Corresponding Secretary of this Society, for an account of its last exhibition, from which we condense as follows. In view of the times, it was deemed best to avoid expense as much as possible, and the exhibition was consequently held in the Society's meeting rooms, and was "really a charming display—not too much. The rooms were handsomely decorated with evergreens and very fine plants of Fuchsias, some of which were eight feet high, and most symmetrical, showing fine cultivation. None have ever been exhibited that surpassed those of Mr. John Humphreys." Mr. Burgess, of East New York, exhibited sixty-five varieties of Sweet Williams, which are said to have been very fine. He also exhibited a fine collection of Roses, two of which were seedlings of merit. Messrs. Dailledouze and Zeller usually make fine displays of cut flowers, but on the present occasion they are said to have had the best collection of Roses and Carnations ever exhibited before the Society. Mr. Barnes, in his fine collection, had

a superb new Pelargonium, name not given. Mr. John Friend exhibited a good collection of cut flowers. The President made a good show of miscellaneous plants. Mr. Hamlyn exhibited fine Ericas. Mr. Weir made a good show of Bouquets and Baskets. The only fruit consisted of a large and fine bunch of Black Hamburgh and Muscat of Alexandria Grapes, from Mr. Chorlton. Mr. Williamson, artist, sent in some very good oil sketches of fruits and flowers.

No premiums were awarded on this occasion, and it was thus shown that a good exhibition can be got up without this stimulus; still the absence of a number who have heretofore exhibited shows that the premium is not without its influence.

On the second of July the Society held the first of a series of meetings for conversational purposes. The audience on the occasion was composed partly, and very appropriately, of ladies. On the table were a collection of Strawberries from Mr. Fuller, seedling Carnations, &c., from Messrs. Dailledouze and Zeller, Fuchsias, Dahlias, and Bouquets from Mr. Humphreys, Fox Gloves and Sweet Williams from Mr. Burgess, a collection of flowers from Mr. Barnes, and very fine Gooseberries from Mr. Miller. After some introductory remarks by the President, Mr. Fuller described some of the leading Strawberries and their culture, in which he recommended the removal of all runners. He gave a prominent place to the Triomphe de Gand and Bartlett. He also recommended the ladies to *try* and raise seedlings. There, Mr. Fuller, that will do. Of course they'll try; they always do try.

Mr. Brophy made some very appropriate remarks on the beauty and influence of flowers. Mr. Pardee discoursed in familiar style on the benefits and advantages of such meetings to members and others, and of their coming together and fully giving their experience in the plainest English, so that all may understand.

This was mostly a preliminary meeting, but from the spirit which prevailed we conclude that these conversational meetings are now fully inaugurated, and trust they will go on, and be abundantly fruitful in good results, which can not fail to be the case if the members are true to themselves and the good cause. These meetings will present a fine opportunity for interesting the public in the work and success of the Society, and they should therefore be widely published. At the public exhibitions they can see *what* has been done; and at these meetings they can learn *how* to do it, and this is just what is wanted to make the public feel an interest in the Society's permanent success; to make them feel, indeed, that it is as much their society as the gardener's.

Nectarines.—We are indebted to Mr. Hamlyn, gardener to W. C. Langley, Esq., Bay Ridge, for very beautiful specimens of the Stanwick Nectarine, and also a new white variety which we do not know. The latter has a beautiful white waxy skin, but is not equal to the Stanwick. The Stanwick is large and handsome, sometimes with a red cheek, is juicy, sweet, fine flavored, and quite equal to its high reputation. We are greatly pleased with it.

New Roses.—We are indebted to Mr. Dailledouze, Brooklyn, for specimens of Madame Boll and Francis I. Roses. The latter is a rose of medium size, full, of good form, and a beautiful dark crimson color. It promises to be one of the best of its class. Madame Boll is a very large rose, full, compact, of good form, a beautiful deep rose color, and abundant bloom. One flower contained three hundred and thirty-two petals. The flower stem is short, and the flowers are completely surrounded with leaves, set up close under the buds, and the effect is very beautiful. Madame Boll we esteem a first class rose; it is just a little coarse in its texture, and that is about the only fault we can perceive in it. Both the above roses are fragrant.

"One Concerned," who writes us from Portland, must send us his name, not for publication, but to comply with a recognized rule from which we do not deem it wise to depart.

Seedling Roses.—We have received from Mr. Burgess, of East New York, two of his seedling Roses. One is in the style of Queen of the Prairies, but darker, and with a larger cluster. The form and color are good, and the habit strong. The other is a large rose of the Hybrid Perpetual class; form good, full, compact, and habit robust. They are both Roses that we shall expect to hear of again.

Tall Rye.—We have just been shown a sample of Rye grown on the so-called "barrens" of Long Island. The stalks are over five feet high, the head long and fairly filled, and giving promise of good yield. We have seen worse Rye many a time. The present is a sample of four acres, grown on land reclaimed last August. The undergrowth and roots were grubbed up, and burned on the land, which was then thoroughly plowed and dressed with 150 pounds of guano to the acre, which we do not by any means consider the best dressing it could have had. It is simply absurd to call land barren and worthless that will produce such straw.

A Rival to the Wilson.—The Strawberry Bont St. Julien, which we have seen for the first time this spring, promises to rival the Wilson in productiveness, and it is certainly much superior to it in flavor. We have only seen it in one place, and its wonderful yield may have been the result of some peculiar fitness in the soil. Have any of our readers grown it? We should like to hear more of it. La Constante, which came to us as the most productive of foreign varieties, has, wherever we have seen it, borne only a moderate crop; but the berry is large and the quality very fine.

Bright's Grape Culture.—We are indebted to the author for a copy of the new edition of this work, which, we regret to say, we have not yet found time to examine, except to see that it contains much new matter. We shall allude to it again. It may be had of C. M. Saxton, 25 Park Row, New York. Price 50 cents.

Mr. Fuller's Strawberries.—We recently, in company with a committee from

the American Institute, visited Mr. Fuller's nursery for the purpose of examining his seedling strawberries; and we are compelled to say that we have nowhere seen a collection containing so many varieties of merit. We saw the original bed last season, in company with Mr. Pardee, and some seventy-three kinds were selected for trial; and it was now our object to examine these, and also a small bed of new ones. The examination resulted in reducing the number to a dozen, to be kept for another year's trial. Mr. Fuller has wisely determined to send none of them out till they have been fully tested. The dozen alluded to have been selected in reference to their size, quality, productiveness, and hardiness, and if they sustain their present character in these respects they can not be regarded otherwise than as acquisitions; six of them, however, being in these particulars superior to the others. Nos. 7, 14, 20, and 53 we esteem the best of the lot; 14 is a berry of remarkable flavor. For the present it is not necessary to otherwise describe them.

Correspondence.

PETER B. MEAD, ESQ.: As we have passed through another winter, and a severe one for fruit trees and vines, it may not be uninteresting to you to know the result of the season on the fruits and vines in this place; and I will write a short letter, giving my observation on them, hoping that they will be of a little interest to you as a horticulturist to pay for their perusal.

The peach blossoms are almost all killed, I having seen but about twenty blossoms this spring; and the trees are coming out with but a very few leaves, and look mostly dead.

I have seen but one solitary cherry blossom; and the trees look bad, and as if they were dying.

Plums look bad, and are leaving out very scattering, and I have not seen a single blossom about here this spring.

May there not be something gained in the loss of the above fruits for a season or two, in the destruction of the curculio by the loss of their favorite places for depositing their eggs, and thus they die out?

Pears did look well in the early spring, and the trees blossomed quite full; but from the first to the seventh of May, while the pear was in blossom, we had cold weather and some snow, with the ground frozen hard on three successive mornings, and ice made nearly one eighth of an inch thick, which I think killed the young pears, as the blossom leaf turned brown and the pears which had formed dropped off, so that there are but a very few left. Apples blossomed quite full, and have set well, and there is now a prospect of a good yield of fruit, if they do not blast hereafter.

Grapes are badly killed. Most all of the old Catawba, Isabella, and Diana vines are killed to the ground.

Young vines, two and three years old, of the newer kinds, in my little nursery, which were cut back closely last fall and buried about five inches deep with earth, came out this spring in the following condition:

Diana, two years old, killed to three buds.

Clara, two years old, killed to two buds.

Rebecca, two years old, killed to three buds.

Concord, three years old, killed but two or three buds on the end of the shoots.

Herbemont, three years old, killed back to three buds at the bottom of shoots.

Union Village, two years old, killed to one and two buds at the ground.

Delaware, three years old, alive to the ends of the shoots, and looks very finely.

Anna, three years old, alive to the ends of the shoots, and looks well.

Lenoir, three years old, all died to the ground.

To Kalon, two years old, alive to the end of the shoots, and looks well.

Elsingburgh, two years old, alive to the end of the shoots, and looks well.

I have thus given my observations so far, and trust that you will excuse the liberty I have taken, as I suppose your time may be occupied to better purpose than attending to letters like the above, and I have made it pretty long.

Respectfully, your friend, HENRY L. STEWART.

Middle Haddam, Conn., June 6, 1861.

[We are obliged to you for your notes on the effects of the past winter; they are valuable, and we should be glad to have more of them. In regard to the curculio, the loss of the plum crop unfortunately affords us no immunity, for this pest, in the absence of plums, goes to the pear, apple, and other fruits. The plum would seem to be its frst choice; deprived of that, it will attack almost any fruit at hand, as you can now convince yourself by examining your fallen apples and pears, &c., when you will see multitudes of the unmistakable crescent marks. The results in regard to your vines are very nearly those that have reached us from many different sources, the Delaware in every instance coming out entirely uninjured. It remains where we placed it, at the head of the list of all our hardy grapes.—ED.]

ED. HORTICULTURIST: I am *dreadfully* shocked to find myself in print; have always had a perfect horror of appearing in the papers. In this instance, however, there is one comfort; the public will know that I didn't mean to be published, for my poor letter bears internal evidence of that fact in my request that you would give your answers to "Maggie;" and if you had only given me *that* as a "nomme de plume," it wouldn't have been so bad. "Mais n'importe;" it's a bad wind that blows nobody any good; and I console myself by remembering that the publication of my letter has procured me the counsel and sympathy of other experienced horticulturists beside yourself. Before the March number of the HORTICULTURIST reached me, I received a letter addressed to Mrs. Carrie D. M., and I smiled, as I thought it from some absent-minded correspondent who had forgotten to write the remainder of my name. But on opening it, I found it was from one of whom

I had never heard before, and who in the kindest manner advised me as to what roses to plant and how to treat them. And I feel a presentiment that this circumstance will make this very kind gentleman and myself fast friends for life. And then the very courteous proprietor of the Kentucky Nurseries kindly sent me his opinion about my apple trees, and I think it is correct, because in many instances the bark has blackened where there is no appearance of the borer, and because the diseased part is always on the south side. He says, "The injury is done in winter or early spring. We frequently have warm days in January, February, and March, which start the sap into motion; we then have a storm which ends in a hard freeze, and this congeals the sap which has commenced to flow, causing it to burst its sap vessels. It cannot then either ascend or return, but sours, and causes the place to decay. The remedy is to bind some straw round the trunk in the fall, and let it remain until next season, first removing all the dead bark, and killing all the grubs where there are any; and by putting clay round the dead place, it will grow over more readily. And sometimes the disease is caused in May in very hot weather, when the sap is flowing very freely. The straw will prevent it in either case."

Query, is *this* the blight? I have already had my trees doctored in the way prescribed, and am so thankful that there is any hope of saving these trees. I had given them up. I have quoted this information at such length, because there are perhaps many novices in this part of the Union, (?) where our climate is so changeable, to whom it will be as valuable as to myself. I wish you could procure from this gentleman such articles for your journal, for the benefit of Kentucky horticulturists. It is just such plain, practical information as we beginners need.

You will have to let me write you another letter about the pears and roses, I have strung this out to such a length. And in answer to your many compliments, if you will come over our river to Kentucky, and help me out of my troubles, I will promise you as a reward, if you are a marriageable gentleman, my little daughter, who is quite a young lady now, as much as two or three feet high—*provided* you are all that I think the Editor of the HORTICULTURIST ought to be, and are willing to wait twenty years for her; and for your example will introduce you to the best husband in the world, one who "*has* a soul" even "*larger* than my own." And if you are *not* a marriageable gentleman, I can enjoy your visit the more, without the fear of losing my daughter. Jesting aside, it would be a *real charity* for you to visit this benighted region, for I have no doubt as a consequence Horticulture would receive a new impetus in this section, and we will promise to leave no means untried to make your visit agreeable. You may publish this, or as much of it as you choose. Don't care how many letters I have in the papers now; feel perfectly desperate, as all people do who have lost a good character, since losing mine for *diffidence*. Kindly and respectfully,

Mount Sterling. CARRIE D. M.

[Well, Carrie, we were just a little shocked too when we found we had pub-

lished the whole of your letter, but we supposed it was all to be printed; and, in fact, we couldn't help it. How could you send us such a gem, and expect us to hide it in the dark? It is seldom indeed that we have such a shining light for an example to our readers, and we wished to show them, especially our female readers, that woman is never more beautiful than when enlarging her sphere a little outside of the four recognized wooden walls to which many would confine her; that if woman's legitimate sphere is home, that home embraces something more than the rooms within their dwelling. True, we might have suppressed the whole name instead of a part of it; but we mistook "Maggie" for a term of endearment for the magazine. Did you ever see more child-like simplicity than that? Then, again, when somebody says a really good thing, we all want to know *who* says it. On the whole, we think it has all turned out just right; for it has done you good, and the public too. The disease described by your Kentucky friend is what is called the *blight.* The cure he recommends is a good one, but the best *preventive* is to let your trees branch lower down, some two or three feet from the ground. This is a good plan, indeed, not only for your part of the Union, but for all parts of it, and especially for novices. Certainly, write us all about your Pears and Roses, and we will do all we can for you.—And now for the little daughter. We have made up our mind, and the thing is done; we are bound to go to Kentucky, and you and our little love of a lady shall see whether we do not come up to the *provisions.* Twenty years! they will glide swiftly by, and seem like nothing, for the love we bear her. Bless the little soul, we send her a thousand kisses. We'll have a nice time when we come to Kentucky. We hope she'll say, like little Johnny Grant, "Well, father, there's something worth living for when Mr. Mead comes, ain't there?" And then, too, we are to be introduced to the best husband in the world, who has a larger soul than your own. Tell him to be prepared for a hearty embrace; for, next to a woman, we do love a man with a big soul. We are impatient to be off; for with you, your husband, and our "little love," we can see nothing but the purest enjoyment.—So you see, Carrie, we have taken you at your word, and published most of your letter; but you have no reason to feel desperate while engaged in doing a good deed. The other Carrie you allude to has returned home, and will pick up no more chinquipins in Mississippi: the climate was too much for her husband's health. She *is* a sweet girl, and we had another good time when she came back. And so closes our chat for the present.—Ed.]

RAVENSWOOD PEAR.

for THE HORTICULTURIST.

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